

Lebanon says Hizbollah will fight

BEIRUT (Agencies) Lebanon is defying the United States by refusing to curb the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), which Washington says must be defeated.

In a hard-hitting speech on army day, President Elias Hrawi on Monday called the pro-Iranian group's fight against Israeli occupation in South Lebanon legitimate and said it would continue until Israel promised to withdraw.

Mr. Hrawi angrily accused Israel of holding Lebanon hostage by falsely accusing it of responsibility for bombings in which it had no part.

He said Israel was also deliberately wrecking South Lebanon to protect its 15-kilometre wide occupation zone.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week linked Hizbollah to bloody bombings of Israeli and Jewish centres in Buenos Aires and London and said the group "must be defeated."

U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley watched among the VIP audience as Mr. Hrawi told an army day parade that the Hizbollah-led resistance to Israeli occupation is legitimate.

He said the resistance — which has killed 10 Israeli soldiers this year and injured dozens — would continue until Israel announced a pullout from the south.

"Resistance to the occupation is legitimate. It will cease to exist when the occupation is no more. Let Israel announce its withdrawal or let it present a timetable for its withdrawal, then the Lebanese state will pledge to maintain security there (in the south)," Mr. Hrawi said.

He denounced allegations of Lebanese involvement in the Buenos Aires and London bombings as an unacceptable aggression against Lebanon.

"They claim that Lebanon is responsible for any explosion that has taken place or will take place in any corner of the world."

"Israel has no right to accuse us falsely of something in which we have no say whatsoever."

"This false accusation is in itself an aggression. How long will this insistence on keeping our country hostage for the settlement of problems last?" Mr. Hrawi asked.

Lebanon has lived in fear for several days of an Israeli blitz against the south in response to the Buenos Aires and London bombings.

Many villagers have fled their homes, although Lebanese security sources and residents in the south told Reuters on Monday that most of those who had left were people who had come for summer holidays, not permanent residents.

A week-long Israeli blitz last year killed 150 south-ers, destroyed thousands of homes and sent 300,000 people fleeing northwards.

Israeli troops and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia allies frequently shell villages, towns and cities in the south, regularly killing civilians and destroying their homes, in response to Hizbollah's attacks.

"Israel has no right to ruin our land with the pretext of preserving the security of its occupation of our lands," Mr. Hrawi said.

"The road to peace does not accept that the security of the occupation comes from the non-security of those who stay on their land," he added.

Mr. Hrawi said it was up to Beirut, not Israel to establish security in South Lebanon.

"We take care of our own security," Mr. Hrawi said. Last week he said he would send 25,000 Lebanese army soldiers to the south to maintain security and prevent cross-border attacks on Israel once its troops left.

A government official said the United States will try to persuade Israel against a punitive raid on Lebanon on the eve of a new Middle East peace mission by Mr. Christopher.

Ambassador Hambley vowed to Foreign Minister

Fares Bouez that his government would try to prevent any Israeli action which could compromise Mr. Christopher's peace efforts, the official said.

"There is no hard evidence to pin the blame on Hizbollah or on any other Iranian-backed group based in Lebanon," said the official, who declined to be named.

"The Americans realise any Israeli military action at this time could compromise Mr. Christopher's efforts to break the deadlock in the negotiations, namely because they see the possibility of progress on the Syrian-Israeli track," he added.

He said the "ball is in Israel's court."

The official also reported that Syria had voiced concern to Lebanese leaders over the possibility of a new flare-up of violence in South Lebanon.

"Damascus has stressed that any attack on Lebanon would endanger the negotiations," the official said, adding that Mr. Bouez was in permanent contact with his Syrian counterpart Farouk Al Sharrar.

Mr. Christopher was expected to return to the region on Aug. 8 in a renewed effort to break the deadlock in Syria's talks with Israel. He last shuttled between Israel and Syria two weeks ago.

U.S.: Hizbollah tied to Argentina blast

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Circumstantial evidence links the July 18 bombing of a Buenos Aires Jewish cultural centre in which over 100 people were killed to the terrorist group, Hizbollah, according to the State Department's lead official on counter terrorism.

In testimony before a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on international security and human rights, Barbara Bodine said Monday the "modus operandi" of the bombing suggests Hizbollah committed the bombings against the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Aid Association (AMIA).

In addition, she said, the apparent bombing July 19 of a commuter plane outside of Colon, Panama, in which 21 people were killed also could have been the work of terrorists. It was "worth noting" that a Hizbollah splinter group, Ansarallah, has made references to the events in Argentina and Panama, she said.

Ms. Bodine, the department's coordinator for counter terrorism, said the bombings demonstrate "both the unfortunate global reach of terrorists" and their willingness to attack "soft" targets, "chosen only because of their symbolic value."

The timing of the attack in Buenos Aires, she added, occurred "just as prospects for peace in the Middle East are brighter than they have been in this century."

Bodine assured members of the subcommittee that "the forces opposed to a comprehensive peace in the Middle East will not meet their objective by attacks on civilians literally thousands of miles away."

A few months ago, she said, the United States "approached governments throughout the region, expressing our concern over the growing Hizbollah presence." But the responses from many governments in Latin America, she said, "have proven inadequate."

The most recent bombing in Buenos Aires and a similar 1992 attack against the Israeli embassy in that city have all the "hallmarks of a Hizbollah operation."

Although it claimed credit for the 1992 bombing Ms. Bodine said, Hizbollah has denied responsibility for the latest attack.

What occurred at the AMIA, she said, "is a tragic parallel to the bombing of a Pan American flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in December 1988."

Just as the Pan Am bomb-

ing demonstrated the callousness and savagery of international terrorism, so too did AMIA.

The Pan Am bombing and similar acts of terrorism in the 1980s, she said, "invigorated many states to combat terrorism through the application of the rule of law and by bringing pressure to bear on those few states that support terrorism."

I trust that the AMIA bombing and the incidents that have followed it will produce the same consequences for those who undertake such attacks and those governments that help make such attacks happen."

Six governments, Ms. Bodine said, remain on the State Department's list for supporting terrorism — Iran, Iraq, Syria, Cuba, Libya, and Sudan.

The United States worked with Buenos Aires authorities in attempting to solve the AMIA bombing by sending investigative and forensic specialists to that city. As requested by Argentina, Ms. Bodine said, the U.S. team is now analysing evidence collected in the case.

To prevent further acts of terrorism in Argentina, she said, the U.S. has also provided extensive training

through the State Department's anti-terrorism training assistance programme. Among the courses offered are post-blast investigation, explosive incident countermeasures, and a terrorist interdiction seminar.

Argentine Ambassador Raul Granillo Ocampo told the hearing that the AMIA bombing "has been considered the most important terrorist incident in Argentine history and the most serious attack on a Jewish community anywhere in the world since World War II."

Besides the 104 killed in the blast, he said, 227 people were injured and another 15 are still missing.

Rejecting criticism that Argentina has become a haven for anti-Jewish groups, Granillo Ocampo said the country's Jewish community is an "integral part of our nation of immigrants."

Thus, the AMIA bombing aroused deep feelings of sorrow and anger in Argentina.

To show its sorrow, he said, the government proclaimed three days of national mourning.

The bombings, he said, "has inspired Argentina to close ranks once again with its Jewish community."

UNHCR welcomes Jordan's moves, says more needed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHCR) has welcomed the progress in the democratisation process in Jordan and the end to many measures which it earlier considered as restrictions on basic freedoms.

A report on the situation of human rights in Jordan was among the issues considered during a July 4-29 session in Geneva along with similar reports from Italy, Cyprus, Togo, Azerbaijan, Slovenia and Burundi, a statement from the U.N. information service said.

Among a concern expressed by the committee was the high number of offences punishable by death and the number of death penalties handed down by the court in Jordan.

International Human Rights activists, while expressing understanding of the Jordanian argument that death penalties for murders and other major crimes are inevitable, particularly given the tribal fabric of the Kingdom, are pushing for a reduction of the number of crime punishable by death as the first step.

The basis for the committee's review is the concerned country's compliance with the Civil and Political Rights Covenant, an international document on human rights. Jordan is a signatory to the document.

The committee's assessment is based on a review of how far the individual countries which are signatory to the document are complying with its provisions.

The committee meeting acknowledged the progress made by Jordan in various fields of human rights.

"The committee welcomed the democratic process, initiated in 1989, the lifting of the state of emergency, and the abolition of martial law, the 1935 Defence Act as well as

the release of political prisoners, restoration of withdrawn passports, reinstatement of civil servants who had been dismissed for political reasons, and the institution of the right to appeal to the supreme court against decisions of the State Security Court," the U.N. statement said.

The committee also recommended that the "state party continue the legislative review" envisaged by the Kingdom's national charter, which was endorsed in 1991, and called for the incorporation of all "substantive provisions in the covenant into domestic law."

It also called on the government to "ensure that the restrictions imposed under national legislation do not go beyond those permitted under the covenant."

"The committee noted that the general legal framework was still not in conformity with the provisions of the covenant," it said. "It was concerned that the State Security Court continued to exercise special jurisdiction and that ordinary law can be suspended in emergency situations, contrary to the provisions of article 4 of the covenant which prohibit derogation from some categories of human rights."

"It expressed regret that despite some improvement, the state party has not embarked on all the necessary reforms to combat the factors still impeding equality between men and women. The Constitution did not guarantee the principle of non-discrimination on the basis of sex, and there were still gender disparities in law or practice with regard to such issues as status within the family, inheritance rights, the right to leave the country and participation in public life."

"... In spite of the adoption of the new press act, freedom of expression was still restricted through the control exercised by the authorities

over the state radio and television and by measures of harassment against some journalists," the statement said.

In Azerbaijan, the committee noted, there have been reports of cases of summary execution, enforced or involuntary disappearance, torture and other acts of violence against the person, as well as arbitrary detention. Similar breaches have been reported in Togo, where, the committee noted, failure to exclude violators of human rights from service in the military or the security forces could seriously undermine the transition to democracy.

Regarding Italy, the committee was concerned about cases of ill-treatment of persons by police and security forces and length of preventive detention.

Pre-trial detention, meanwhile, was one of the causes of concern with respect to the situation in Slovenia. This state party also accorded special treatment to its Hungarian, Italian and Gypsy minorities, treatment that should be extended to all minorities, according to the committee.

Provisions regarding the death penalty were among the causes of concern in relations to the situation in Cyprus, where domestic law allows application of the death penalty to persons between 16 and 18 years of age, in conflict with the provisions of the covenant. The committee was also concerned about cases of ill-treatment of detainees in Cyprus.

In Burundi, the committee deplored the grave and repeated violations of human rights which occurred following the events of the autumn of 1993. The army, police, gendarmerie and security police continued to be the source of numerous human rights violations. The committee also deplored the lack of investigations regarding those violations.

Malaria spreading fast in Iraqi Kurdistan

ERBIL (AFP) — Malaria is spreading fast in Kurdish-held northern Iraq, striking thousands of people, mainly because of a shortage of insecticides and too many rice-paddies.

According to the Kurdish health authorities, 29,000 people caught the fever between March and June, compared to a total of 35,000 for the whole of 1993. The disease has hit hardest in remote villages.

In Taq-Taq, 100 kilometres south of the main Iraqi Kurdish town of Erbil, Kurdish 30 and 50 patients report each day to a clinic to receive tablets.

Samet Hidayet Ahmad, a 32-year-old policeman who looks more like 45, said he first went down with malaria last year.

There is plenty of medicine to treat patients and so there are no deaths, said Dr. Ali Berzinji. But the problem, he said was to try and prevent the disease, primarily by spraying crops.

"For the whole of northern Iraq, we need at least 270 tonnes of the insecticide malathion. We have received only 20 tonnes," from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), he explained.

Another reason for malaria in northern Iraq is that farmers, who used to grow fruits, are turning increasingly to rice and the paddy-fields are a breeding ground for the mosquitoes which spread the disease, Dr. Berzinji added.

Rice has turned into an attractive crop for farmers because of the U.N. embargo imposed on Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait four years ago and because of the Iraqi blockade of the north, ruled by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad.

Cairo thinks again on veils at schools

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's Ministry of Education, swayed by a torrent of protest from Muslim conservatives, has had second thoughts about a decree requiring parental permission for girls to wear the veil at school next academic year.

Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahadddin was quoted on Tuesday as saying that even if their parents were against it, girls could go to school wearing the hijab, a garment which covers the head and neck but not the face.

"If the girl's father refuses to let her wear the hijab, we will call him in to try to convince him that his daughter is right, as long as she is convinced," the government newspaper Al-Akhar said he told a group of Muslim preachers.

The opposition newspaper Al-Wafd gave a slightly different account of the minister's new position.

"The ministry will not prevent any girl who wears the veil voluntarily from going to school, even if her guardian objects," it quoted him as saying. "He said the school would simply inform him (the guardian) of the situation," it added.

Ministry officials were not available on Tuesday to say what would happen if the parents and the girl continued to disagree.

In an interview published on Friday, Mr. Bahadddin said clearly that girls wishing to wear the veil at school could do so only if their parents sent the school their written approval.

He said the aim was to stop fundamentalist teachers from imposing the veil on schoolgirls by force.

"We have noticed during the past school year that some extremist teachers have imposed the veil on girls in primary schools," he told Al

Akhar.

"We had several cases in which schoolgirls were severely beaten (by teachers) to make them wear the veil. We have reacted very strongly and firmly against such conduct because these acts are educationally prohibited."

A committee of Muslim scholars from the Azhar, Egypt's ancient seat of Islamic learning, said the decree was a violation of Islamic law, most versions of which say women should expose only their faces and hands in public.

"To impose a penalty on a Muslim girl who observes God's order in this matter by depriving her of education and preventing her from going to school... is to punish obedience to God's orders and to encourage disobedience to God Almighty," the Fatwa Committee of the Azhar said.

It recommended the minis-

try reconsider the decree.

Opposition newspapers of most persuasions have also been hostile to the decree. "All Egypt rose up to confront the decree... people felt their beliefs were under threat and that someone was trying to suppress God's law for the sake of a wicked secularism," said the right-wing paper Al-Akhar.

Mr. Bahadddin told the Muslim preachers on Monday that the aim of the decree was to prevent schoolgirls being swept up in "harmful deviant currents trying to give political significance to a religious garment."

Muslim militants have been waging a campaign of violence against the Egyptian security forces for the past two years and more than 400 people have been killed.

The level of violence has fallen off since early May and the government says it is winning the war against them.

Israeli schools to teach reform, Judaism

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli schools will reverse years of teaching only orthodox Jewish views and start teaching the conservative and reform streams as well, Israel's education minister says.

"Orthodox Judaism has no monopoly on the education system," said Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein. "Our tradition as a people is to be precious to leave up to the orthodox."

It was another small dent in the Israeli religious system for the conservative and reform streams, which reject orthodox belief that the Bible is God's revealed word.

In recent years, Israeli courts have recognised orthodox conversions, and have ordered government funds directed at conservative and reform institutions.

The changes reduce the influence of Israel's rabbinate, which controls sectors of civilian life such as marriage and divorce. The rabbinate recognises only orthodox Jewry, and regards reform and conservative Judaism as apostasy.

There are relatively few reform and conservative Jews in Israel. But they predominate in American Jewish life,

and Israeli orthodox rejection of the other movements has threatened to undermine American Jewish support for Israel.

Mr. Rubinstein said the decision to teach all streams of Judaism stemmed from the recommendations of a commission investigating why Israeli youth are increasingly cut off from tradition.

Commission chairwoman Aliza Shenhar told reporters that the commission found that high school students dropped out of Jewish studies classes because they found the teaching approach too narrow.

Teaching Judaism must reflect the variety, the many faces of Judaism," she said. "It should not create an un-historical Judaism, unilateral with one answer, but a Judaism with many questions, arguments and approaches."

The Shenhar commission was appointed three years ago by Mr. Rubinstein's predecessor, Zevulun Hammer, who represented the orthodox National Religious Party. Mr. Hammer appointed the commission because of drastic drops in attendance at Jewish studies classes.

The former director-gener-

al of the education ministry, Zevulun Orlev, said orthodox was not to blame.

"The government is to blame," he said. "This is a society that is bankrupt."

Wedding contract

Volunteer archaeologists discovered a Jewish marriage contract dating two centuries before the time of Christ, featuring the earliest example of the Hebrew script used nowadays, a statement said Monday.

The seven pieces of ceramic tile that make up part of the ketuba — a Jewish marriage contract — were uncovered by American volunteers digging at the site of the Biblical city of Marissa, in central Israel, an Israel antiquities authority statement said.

The script is of the type, known as "Square Jewish," used in Israel and throughout the Jewish world today.

It is the oldest example of the script in the world, the statement said, and its existence suggests that the script's use was consolidated at that time.

'Egypt, Iran hold secret meetings in Damascus'

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian and Iranian officials have held secret meetings in Damascus since June in a bid to improve relations, an Islamic newspaper here reported Tuesday.

The bi-weekly Al-Shaab said four meetings had been held under Syrian mediation since Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa met his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement meeting in Cairo.

Al-Shaab also reported that Mr. Musa and Mr. Velayati had exchanged several messages since their June meeting, in which "cordial and calm diplomatic language" was used.

An Iranian economic delegation visited Cairo in July and presented Egyptian officials with a "plan of action" to promote economic cooperation and mutual investment, the paper said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Tao Tao
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:30 News in French
18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
21:10 The Nature of Things
22:00 News in English
22:30 The Nanny
22:50 Folklore

PRAYER TIMES

04:19 Fajr
05:47 (Sunrise) Dhuhur
12:42 Dhuhur
16:22 'Asr
19:38 Maghreb
21:06 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Smithfield, Tel. 510740
Assembly of God Church, Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
637440.
De la Saule Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
63541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851. Tel.
628543.

ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Tel. 771331.

ARMENIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Tel. 775261.

ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH

Tel. 771251.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tel. 824328.

GERMAN-SPEAKING EVANGELICAL COUNCIL

Tel. 684195

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

CHURCH OF NAZARETH

Tel. 675691.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fine with temperatures below average, clouds appearing at low altitudes, and winds north-westerly moderate. In Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp. 18/29

Aqaba 25/37

Deserts 16/31

Jordan Valley 24/36

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27 Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 41 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ramez Mawzi 794788
Dr. Khalil Jhal 740740
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286
Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485
Fina pharmacy 681912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asana pharmacy 637025
Nairouhi pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637603
Nairouhi pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
IREB:
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 248743
Al Qadi pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Tareq Hijawi 985445
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 611111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency

199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 617101

Blood Bank 77121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 980590

Public Security Department 630231

Hotel Complaints 605800

Water and Sewerage 661176

Amman Municipality 897467

Complaints 787111

Argentina...

through the State... assistance... Among the... explosive... inter...
Argentina... Raul Granillo... bombing... history... incident... attack... since World War II...
Resides the 104... were injured and... are still missing...
Rejecting critics... haven't for anti-Jewish... Granillo... country's Jewish... an "integral part... of immigration... Thus, the AMIA... aroused deep feeling... row and anger in Argentina... To show its sorrow... the government... three days of mourning...
The bombing... "has inspired Argentines... close ranks once again... its Jewish community..."

at schools

try reconsider the... Opposition... been hostile to the... "All Egypt rose up... from the decree... their beliefs... threat and that... trying to suppress... for the sake of a... secularism," said the... wing paper Al-Ahram...
Mr. Bahaddin... Muslim preachers... day that the aim of... was to prevent... being swept up... violent currents... political significance... garment...
Muslim militants... been waging a... violence against the... security forces for... two years and more... people have been... The level of violence... fallen off since early... the government says... the war against...

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Al-Sabeah also reports that Mr. Moussa and Velayati had exchanged several messages since the June meeting, in which the two leaders agreed to dial and calm diplomatic "gauche" was used...
An Iranian economic delegation visited Cairo last week and presented Egyptian officials with a "plan of action" to promote economic cooperation and mutual benefit, the paper said.

NHF training ends for Egyptian team

AMMAN (I.T.) — A 10-day training programme for an Egyptian delegation of specialists and workers employed on a project for rural health and family planning at Al Fayyoun Governorate Tuesday concluded at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF).
The training of the 15-member delegation was within the framework of the training programmes organised by NHF's Quality of Life Project (QOL) which is accredited by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a regional training centre for the eastern Mediterranean region in applying the Basic Minimum Needs Approach.
Mohammad Zakaria, head of the Egyptian delegation, praised Her Majesty Queen Noor's efforts in the field of development and said the training programme was of great benefit to the participants. He said the group was impressed by the NHF's rich experience in the field of development based on self-reliance and grassroots community participation in the planning, management and evaluation of economic schemes.
He added that following the slide presentation on the NHF's projects and programmes given by Issam Zawawi, director of the QOL Project and responsible for the training programmes, the delegation visited the Jordanian villages where the QOL is being implemented. The group had a first hand view of NHF's QOL achievements in improving the overall quality of life through its different income-generating schemes which include home gardens, fruit orchards, goat, cow and poultry raising, fish ponds, broom and basket making, tricot knitting and sewing, textile and carpet weaving and bee-keeping.
The delegation also witnessed how Jordanian women were empowered to become active participants in the development process, informed decision-makers in their homes and communities and trained income earners in their society.

Brother kills sister in Ajloun — police

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — A 23-year-old woman Monday was shot and killed by her brother in the Al Sakneh area of Ajloun for alleged adultery, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) and family sources. Fatima M. F. received one bullet to the heart. Her brother (25), identified only as R.M., called police to report he had killed his sister and was awaiting arrest, a close relative of the family told the Jordan Times.
According to the source, Fatima was raped a year ago by a stranger, became pregnant and had an abortion.
The source said the authorities had discovered the illegal abortion, and the woman was obliged to appear in court.
"Her brother was accompanying her to a court hearing on Monday, but she was afraid and she jumped from the bus," the source said.
He said the brother caught up with his sister, took her home and decided to "kill her and finish the matter."
Another family member claimed that the young woman was mentally ill, and that someone had sexually abused her.
"Her brother felt that he had to kill her to cleanse his family's honour," he said.
He said that Fatima and her brother were the only siblings of their family, adding that there were no family problems.
Ajloun Prosecutor General Zuhair Rosan, who is investigating the incident could not be reached Monday for immediate comment.
"Ajloun police confirmed the killing and said that the brother was in police custody pending further investigations."
Fatima is the 13th woman reported killed in a "crime of honour" since the beginning of the year.

VTC to register 5,000 trainees

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) plans to register 5,000 new trainees at its centres this year, an increase of 10 per cent over last year, according to VTC Director General Ahmad Atwan.
Dr. Atwan urged high school graduates to join the VTC centres and learn trades, noting the registration of new trainees has already started in various governorates.
The VTC offers training programmes that cater to the needs of the labour market in various trades and has recently included bakery and hotel management, sales, airport parts servicing, dress making, carpet production, hair dressing and cosmetology to its curriculum, said Dr. Atwan.
In its drive to meet local market needs, the VTC is now considering training in meat-selling and butchery work, metal casting and some technology-related trades, Dr. Atwan added.
To help university graduates find jobs, the VTC has opened short-term training courses for them as well, he said.
The VTC has been offering newly-graduated engineers special training courses to enable them to find jobs, and this year VTC's centres have trained 231 engineers specialising in electronic, electrical and mechanical fields, said Dr. Atwan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

- ### JERASH FESTIVAL
- * Concert by Umayyad Folkloric Group at the South Theatre at 20:30.
 - * Concert by the Armenian Al-Jeel Al-Jadeed Society of Culture at Arsenius Theatre at 20:30.
 - * Children's play: "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Sound and Light Theatre at 19:00 p.m.
 - * Concert by Yarmouk University for Arabic Music and the Kaslaka University Choir at the Sound and Light Theatre at 21:30.
 - * Music and Plastic Art Dialogue at the Garasla Theatre at 19:30.
- ### EXHIBITIONS
- * Ceramic exhibition by artist Haidar Ra'ouf at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - * Jordan Industries Expo at the International Motor Exhibition (Tel. 633854).
 - * Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.
 - * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaina (Tel. 826932).
 - * "A one-painting exhibition" (about 15-metre long which took two years to complete) by Marwan Al Allan at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art (Tel. 695291).
 - * Exhibition of Arabic calligraphy at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - * Jordanian exhibition entitled "Arab Artists in France" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Luwaidah, off Al Muntazah Circle (Tel. 630123).

Japan to loan Kingdom \$131m to expand Aqaba power station, improve energy sector

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is getting \$131 million in fresh concessional credit from the Japanese government to help expand and improve the Kingdom's energy sector, it was announced here Tuesday.
Planning Minister Hisham Al-Khatib and Japanese Charge d'Affaires Hajime Tanaka formalised the documents related to the credit, which comes in the form of two loans — one for \$47.2 million (4,745 million Japanese yen) for the expansion of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station and another for \$83.6 million (8,393 million yen) for reforming the energy sector.
Both loans carry an annual interest of three per cent and are repayable in 30 years, including 10 years of grace, the Japanese embassy said.
Japan is one of Jordan's strong supporters and an ardent backer of the 33-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process. Japan, which plays a key role in the multilateral phase of the peace process, was one

of the first countries to hail the Washington summit on July 25 between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, and the two leaders' declaration of an end to the 46-year state of war between Jordan and Israel.
"The government of Japan hopes that these loans will contribute to Jordan's economic development and stability, which are essential to peace and stability in the region," the Japanese embassy here said in a press release. Tokyo, "heartily welcoming the signing of the Washington Declaration and extending appreciation to the efforts by the negotiators, will continue to offer strong support to Jordan, which is making utmost efforts and great contribution in bringing about a lasting and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," it added.
With the fresh credits, the total amount of Japanese loans to Jordan rose to \$1.8 billion.
The loan for the Aqaba power project was agreed to during a visit Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali paid to Tokyo in December and announced in May when Japanese Foreign Minister Kijakawa visited Jordan.

The agreement signed on Tuesday covers the financial requirements until March 1996 for building the turbine and boiler islands at the Aqaba power plant as part of raising its installed capacity to 260 megawatts to meet the rising demand for power in the Kingdom by the year 1997.
The \$83.6 million loan is extended by Japan to match a similar credit from the World Bank and agreed to in February 1993 during a donors conference in Paris. The loans will be used to reform and increase the efficiency of Jordan's energy sector in general, and help the Kingdom achieve a better balance of payments situation.
The loans are expected to be disbursed quickly in view of Jordan's need to adjust its balance of payments. The Japanese loan is contingent on a World Bank certification that the Kingdom is abiding by the terms of the energy sector adjustment programme.



Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib and Hajime Tanaka Tuesday sign an agreement for a \$131 million loan to Jordan from the government of Japan (Petra photo)

However, the release of the Japanese loan in three tranches will be parallel to the release of the World Bank credit to the Kingdom.
During his May visit, Mr. Khatib also signed an agreement under which the Kingdom would get \$4 million Japanese grant to help

it expand food production. The grant came after the per capita income of Jordan dipped below the "threshold that determines" eligibility for Japanese aid, an official Japanese spokesman said, noting that until now the Kingdom did not qualify for outright assistance since

its per capita income remained above the parameters set by the Tokyo government.
Outright grants from Japan to Jordan over the years have been very limited although the Tokyo government ranks among the highest creditors of Jordan.

Primary health care centre services to be expanded, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Because of increased pressure on Al-Bashir Government Hospital in Amman, the Health Ministry is converting several primary health care centres into comprehensive care centres, providing semi-hospital services in various regions, according to Minister of Health Aref Batayneh.
The increased demand for services at Al-Bashir Hospital, the only government hospital in Amman, has required the referral of many patients to private hospitals in the capital, said the minister.
Al-Bashir Hospital has been enlarged to its limits, the minister said; any future expansion, he said, could only take place on extra land beyond the hospital's perimeter.
Dr. Batayneh said the ministry has prepared designs for the establishment of the Prince Hamzeh Hospital in the Amman area, but the



Aref Batayneh project's execution depends on collecting sufficient funds, estimated at JD 12 million. Referring to private hospitals, the minister said the health ministry had adopted a fee schedule for treatment and hospitalisation services as well as surgeries. But he added that the ministry set up a special com-

mittee to study the benefits of cancelling set fees and allowing hospitals to compete. Dr. Batayneh said competition would certainly lead to a decrease in charges and better facilities.
Doctors' fees, he said, are usually established by the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), but the ministry is urging the JMA to set up a special committee to examine the current fee index.
Dr. Batayneh added that the ministry was now forming a committee to examine public complaints about private and public hospitals, and private clinics and pharmacies.
Referring to the health ministry's central laboratories which examine imported and locally-made drugs, the minister said that 97% of all medicines are being tested there, but soon all types of medicine will be tested after completion of an expansion project.

U.S. agrees to sell grain, dried milk to Jordan

AMMAN (I.T.) — The U.S. government has given its consent to sell Jordan consignments of grain and dried milk under the Export Encouragement Programme (EEP), which offers Jordan favourable trading terms, according to Ministry of Supply Secretary General Mustafa Khleifat Tuesday.
Under the EEP terms, Jordan is entitled to pay up to \$50 less for each tonne of purchased American grain than the current world prices, said Mr. Khleifat, who has just returned from a visit to the United States at the head of a ministry delegation.
Discussions with officials at the U.S. Department of Agriculture were very positive and led to a U.S. government consent to sell Jordan 600,000 tonnes of wheat and 500,000 tonnes of barley, as well as 100,000 tonnes of American rice under EEP terms, Mr. Khleifat told the Jordan Times.
He said that the supply ministry will soon announce tenders for the purchase of the grain.
The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Mr. Khleifat as saying that 50 per cent of the rice consignment would be arriving between August and December and the rest in the first five months of 1995.

The poetry of Talal Haider — the exception at Jerash

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Extending a genuine and warm welcome to the audience, the Lebanese poet Talal Haider addressed his listeners: "This is the age of George Wassoof, not the age of poetry. So, anyone who came to Jerash to listen to me is just like me... appreciates poetry."
Artemis Theatre was host to all the poetry recitals of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts. Many Jordanian and other Arab poets participated with some of their best and recent works.
Surprisingly, during 10 days of verse readings by some 20 poets, not one succeeded in attracting the attention of the attendees, who were also few in number.
In addition, poets invited to the festival were not renowned. The great poets invited either did not show up, like Lebanon's Adonis, or came but did not recite, like Iraqi Sa'di Youssef. And Iraqi poet Abdul Razzaq Abdul Wahid, who won the Saddam Prize for Poetry in 1988, was not invited.

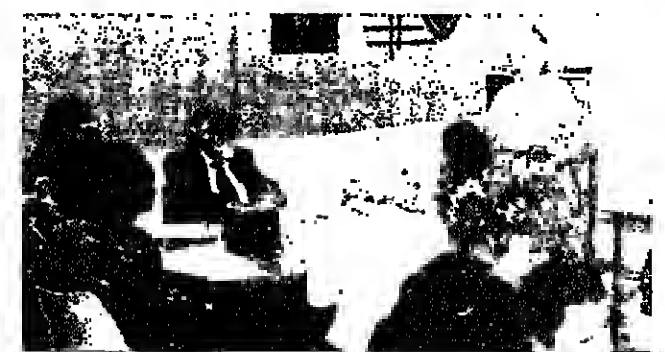
The poetry committee of the festival included young and unknown poets, who had little field experience. This was the main reason behind the failure of this part of the festival programme. The result was nearly no audiences were seen at the theatre, the poetry presented was of a low level, and sometimes it could not even be considered poetry.
But there is always an exception.
Talal Haider, 56, offered his audience real poetry in the final night of poets recitals.
Mr. Haider, having only two collections: "It's The Time" (1970) and "Age Seller" (1990), began with a colloquial love poem, the one which was many years ago sung by Fairuz, the internationally renowned Lebanese vocalist.
"Poetry disappears in front of Fairuz's voice," the poet told the audience.
With simple words full of meaning, the audience was taken back to the age of romance, and simple life, away from the civilised complicated age. Mr. Haider impressed the audience with beautiful words and amazing descriptions of the

imaginary pictures he conveyed.
While reciting, Talal Haider was revealing all his senses as if living the experience of each poem at the moment.
Mr. Haider's poems can be described as simple, not vague or complicated. He offered meanings without asking the audience to dive deep inside his symbolic pictures to find them... as modern poets usually do.
The poet pictured the concepts of love, nostalgia, country, land, nature, man, and poverty with melodic tones that forced the audience to keep listening and to applaud whenever they felt touched with his pictures.
With his poetry, Mr. Haider was as deep as the sea. He pictured human issues, noble issues of great importance to all of us... to our lives.
When he concluded, he descended from the stage to find himself surrounded by the audience who were applauding and trying to shake hands.
While exiting the theatre someone said: "It's the first time I like blank verse," another said "Tonight, I have heard poetry."

Private school teachers learn to detect dyslexic students

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Thirty seven private school teachers began a seven-day workshop entitled "Success for all" that aims at helping teachers to detect dyslexia among school children.
Dyslexia is difficulty in reading, writing and mathematics, caused by a condition of the brain.
"We felt that students (with unrecognised dyslexia) are sometimes being blamed for failing in their classes or not concentrating in class or disrupting it," said Abla Zuraikat, the general secretary of the Private School Council, which organised the workshop.
She told the Jordan Times that many students suffer from dyslexia but they are not detected by teachers, and the council felt that there is a need to invite specialists to educate teachers on the symptoms and how to detect them in their students since Jordan lacks experts in this field.
She added that students with dyslexia will be sent to specialised centres in Jordan for further help adding that this is the first workshop of its kind in the Kingdom.
"This workshop is designed to gather teachers from several schools to sit together and exchange experiences and observations regarding their students," Ms. Zuraikat explained.
She said the workshop also intends to encourage creative teachers and listen to their problems and suggestions.
"The workshop will strive to improve teachers' awareness at private schools to enable them to cope with the latest educational methods," Ms. Zuraikat said.
Teachers from 15 private schools are being instructed by Gertrude M. Webb, president of the Webb International Centre for Dyslexia, in Waltham, Massachusetts in



Gertrude M. Webb, president of Webb International Center for Dyslexia, Inc. Tuesday conducts a workshop for private school teachers on detecting dyslexia in school students (Photo by Rana Hussein)

the U.S.
The schools include Al-Ahlyeh School for Girls (CMS); New English School; Amman National School; the Amman Baccalaureate School; Al-Bashir International School; Al-Bayan School; Al-Manhaj; De La Salle College; National Orthodox School; Abdul Hamid Sharaf School; Al-Ma'arif College; Prince Hamzeh School; Al-Mawel, Modern Educational Schools as well as schools run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).
Dyslexia children cannot learn to decode letters and sometimes numbers and as a result the words cannot make sense to them and "we try to help them find other ways to learn the words and sounds," said Dr. Webb.
She said dyslexia affects no particular age group and "the way to detect it in a child is when his/her language does not come in properly, or the child does not pay attention during class period or tries to avoid reading when asked to do so."
According to Dr. Webb, there is no cure for dyslexia but specialists use "multi-sensory methods that appeal to the sound-image-touch and the muscles all together to stabilise the letters." "It takes time and learning and patience from both students and teachers," she added.

"What I am trying to do is make all of us see that each student who suffers a defect has strengths, although he/she has problems," Dr. Webb said.
"We want to find these strengths and help the children see how they can use them so that they can feel worthwhile and function effectively in school or at home," she added.
Dr. Webb, who has been running her centre for more than 33 years, said that by using the necessary strategies, children with such disabilities can learn that, "instead of hating school, they will find it a place where they can grow and learn and contribute to the society."
"People like Thomas Edison, (Albert) Einstein and Winston Churchill, all had trouble learning to read in school, but their creative minds made an impact on our lives," Dr. Webb commented.
Fameh Toghoj, a teacher at the Prince Hamzeh School said she had already learned new methods and information that should help her detect dyslexic students.
"We have learned the golden rule (in the first day of the workshop) which is to find the strength in the characteristics of the students and find the positive sides to help them," Ms. Toghoj said.

Haiti's military rulers brace for possible U.S.-led invasion

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's military rulers braced for a possible American-led invasion but the Caribbean nation was calm before the threatened storm.

The United States, in a move escalating the effects of the trade embargo Washington hopes will convince the military leaders to leave voluntarily, said late Monday it would station troops at the Dominican border to stop the flow of illegal fuel entering Haiti.

Responding to a U.N. vote Sunday that approved a U.S.-led invasion force, Provisional President Emile Jonassaint declared a state of siege.

In a pre-dawn decree read over state-run television and radio Monday, Mr. Jonassaint, 61, called the vote a violation of international rights. He said his country, which U.S. troops occupied for almost two decades after moving in to quell violence in 1915, would never surrender.

Television screened footage of Haitian army manoeuvres.

Mr. Jonassaint and members of his de facto government, who seized power from democratically-elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a bloody 1991 coup, did not say what measures they would take.

But radio stations said that under the declaration all constitutional guarantees are suspended and civil power is transferred to the military.

Meetings can be dispersed, newspapers, radio and TV stations closed, searches carried out without warrants and a curfew imposed.

The U.N. Security Council voted 12-0 Sunday to approve a resolution giving the United States a green light to lead an invasion of Haiti to remove the military leaders who ousted the populist former President months after he won a landslide presidential election.

Many U.S. officials have argued for delaying any intervention to give trade sanctions — imposed by the United States and the United Nations to put pressure on the country's military rulers — time to work.

U.S. embassy spokesman Stanley Schragger told Reuters that Washington expected to sign an agreement with the Dominican Republic within days allowing about 90 U.S. Dominican and other soldiers to seal the border with Haiti. The move would stop fuel which has poured across the border.

American officials have repeatedly said an invasion is not "imminent" but President Clinton has refused to rule out military action.

Almost 2,000 U.S. Marines are stationed on ships north of Haiti and hundreds more have been practicing invasion techniques on neighbouring islands.

Although many Haitians were jolted by the news of the vote and state of siege, the nation remained outwardly normal.

Streets were calm near the presidential palace, where there was an increased show of security. Prices of fuel and other essential commodities, which have tripled since a trade embargo slapped on Haiti in May and June, showed no dramatic rise in the bustling street markets of Port-Au-Prince on news of the state of siege.

In the countryside, where remote villages are further isolated by the lack of newspapers or radio, many who heard the news Monday greeted it with fatalism.

In the northwest town of Gonaïves, a bedrock of support for Mr. Aristide, voodoo drums rang out in the pre-dawn hours after Mr. Jonassaint's address to the nation.

One Haitian suggested they were ceremonies to hurry the departure of the military rulers but it was impossible to tell the reason for the ceremony.

An 80-year-old woman, rising just after sunrise for the long day's work, gave a common response to troubled times, saying "whatever happens is God's will."

Since sweeping economic sanctions were imposed in May and June, trade between Haiti and the rest of the world has ground to a halt. On Saturday, the country's last commercial air links were cut when Air France fell in line with the air embargo.

Two of three Central American nations Monday openly backed the U.N. Security Council decision allowing a U.S. invasion of Haiti, but said sanctions should be given more time to work.

"We support the United Nations' decision, although I think we must continue exhausting the search for a peaceful solution to Haiti's crisis," Costa Rican President Jose Maria Figueres told reporters.

He said that if those efforts fail to force Haiti's military rulers into resigning and allowing ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to return to power, an invasion would be necessary.

"If there is no other path, or no way out, we will support the U.N. resolution," Mr. Figueres said.

In Honduras, Foreign Minister Ernesto Paz said the government was considering whether or not to offer troops to either an invasion force or a multinational peacekeeping force that would be deployed once Haiti's army chiefs leave.

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N. Korea warns South not to meddle in U.S. talks on nuclear dispute

TOKYO (R) — A North Korean delegation left Tuesday for Geneva to resume talks with U.S. envoys on the nuclear dispute, with Pyongyang warning bitter rival South Korea not to meddle at this "decisive" stage of the dialogue.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, announced the departure of the diplomatic team, headed by Vice Foreign Minister Kang Sok-Jin.

The two sides are due to meet Friday for the first time since July 8, when the dialogue was interrupted following the death of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung.

The talks are aimed at resolving the confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons programme. The secretive North denies it has any military nuclear ambitions but has so far refused U.N. inspectors full access to its nuclear sites.

As Mr. Kang flew out, the official daily Rodong Sinmun urged joint efforts to ensure progress in the bilateral talks based on the principles of mutual trust and equality.

As reported by KCNA, the Communist Party organ gave a clear warning to the South Korean authorities not to interfere.

"Declaring that it is a consistent position of the government of the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea (DPRK) to resolve the nuclear issue peacefully through dialogue and negotiation, the analysts say:

"If a third party's unreasonable demand were raised at the talks, it would result in laying an artificial hurdle in the solution of the nuclear issue."

Rodong Sinmun was echoing a headline statement issued last week by the North Korean Foreign Ministry.

A ministry spokesman said on July 25: "It is clear that if the improvement of North-South relations is set as a precondition for the improvement of the DPRK-U.S. relations at the DPRK-U.S. talks for the solution to the nuclear issue, a fatal roadblock would be erected in the way of the solution to the nuclear issue."

North Korea, which dismisses the Seoul government as a U.S. puppet, has always sought to deal directly with Washington, the guarantor of South Korean security.

Just as consistently Seoul has insisted that improvement of North Korean-U.S. relations must go hand in hand with better North-South ties.

Rodong Sinmun said Tuesday that a fundamental solution to the nuclear issue was unthinkable without trust between North Korea and the United States.

"The nuclear issue in the Korean peninsula is, both nominally and virtually, a matter of the DPRK-U.S. relations and a bilateral issue of political nature which must be solved through DPRK-U.S. dialogue," it said.

The newspaper said Pyongyang stood behind its earlier proposal for a package solution to the nuclear issue.

Such a package would include an agreement to freeze operation of its experimental graphite atomic reactor and reprocessing plant, capable

and ambitious social reforms of the century.

With that in mind, both sides stepped up their campaigns.

For instance, Tipper Gore planned to serve Danish pastry at sunrise Tuesday at the vice president's residence to activists from the cross-country bus tour meant to drum up grass-roots support for health care reform.

And first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was to attend a noon rally at Capitol Hill with like-minded lawmakers pushing for reforms that would insure all Americans.

But the Republicans also geared up, returning attacks on bills that they argue will engorge the deficit, wipe out jobs and limit Americans' choices about their medical care.

"You're talking about the lives and deaths of 265 million Americans. You're talking about 14 per cent of the economy. You're talking about doctors and hospitals and research and in the capital of the United States this bill is being decided on the most narrowly partisan of reasons," House Republican whip Newt Gingrich of Georgia said on a televised forum sponsored Monday night by the Republican National Committee and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"This is the worst possible way to do health care," he said, adding that if the Democrats voted their true

feelings instead of their party loyalties, they would find the Republican alternatives "widely acceptable."

Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon, appearing on the same programme, said the Democrats feared bipartisanship.

"They feel if they cannot pass a Democratic bill, it's a slap in the face to the Democrats and that (it would show) the president cannot lead," Sen. Packwood said.

Like the president, Sen. Mitchell wants to cover a minimum of 95 per cent of the population. In the year 2000, a commission would evaluate insurance coverage rates and would make recommendations if necessary on how to expand coverage above 95 per cent.

A mandate could kick in on Jan. 1, 2002, unless lawmakers chose another mechanism for universal coverage.

President Clinton, battling sagging polls and public lethargy, carried his health care reform campaign into the industrial northeast Monday as Congress neared a decisive moment on his top domestic priority.

Speaking at a rally in a New Jersey park overlooking the Statue of Liberty, Mr. Clinton said the issue was "whether America at long last will join the ranks of all the other industrialised nations of the world" and provide health care for all its citizens.

for personal business and to tape a programme.

Judge Alvarez Perez said previously that the couple signed affidavits stating that they were single and free to marry.

Judge Alvarez Perez, a civil court judge in La Vega, earlier produced a copy of the sworn statement signed by Jackson and Presley.

Over the past year, Jackson, 35, has been embroiled in legal troubles. A 13-year-old boy alleged in a civil lawsuit that the entertainer had sexually molested him over a period of four months. Jackson denied the charges but settled the lawsuit out of court in January for a sum reported to be between \$5 million and \$20 million.

Police have launched an investigation to see if Jackson should be tried on criminal sexual molestation charges. Evidence was presented to two grand juries in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties where the singer maintains homes where the boy alleged the sex acts took place.

No announcement has been made on the grand juries' deliberations.

Spirit of Woodstock flagging 25 years later

NEW YORK (AFP) — The spirit of Woodstock is flagging 25 years after the legendary rock concert that symbolised the Love Generation. One anniversary event has been cancelled and another is struggling for a bigger audience. Promoters scrapped plans Monday for a commemorative concert scheduled to be held Aug. 13-14 on the Bethel, New York farm where the original Woodstock drew 400,000 rain-resistant fans. They had hoped to attract 50,000 people paying nearly \$95 for two days of music by Woodstock veterans such as Richie Havens, Melanie, Sha Na Na and Canned Heat. But only 1,650 tickets were sold. "We had every reason to believe that there was substantial consumer interest in Bethel '94," said Harry Rhulen of the promoters Shea Entertainment. "However, the apparent interest did not materialise to support a multi-million dollar expenditure," he said. Ticket holders will be refunded and Rhulen, an insurance executive, says he stands to lose \$2 million. Sales were also slower than expected for the larger Woodstock '94 concert being staged the same weekend in Saugerties, New York, by the promoters of the original event and PolyGram Diversified Entertainment. Some 250,000 tickets were available at \$135 apiece, but fewer than 150,000 had been snapped up by Monday when sales were supposed to have been cut off, a PolyGram spokesman said. Sales have been extended for at least another 10 days and fans no longer have to buy in blocks of four with one parking pass. They can now buy two tickets with a parking pass.

Driver, 94, tries going against the flow

WELLINGTON (R) — A 94-year-old woman drove six kilometres down the wrong side of one of New Zealand's busiest highways Tuesday without realising anything was amiss, police said. The woman headed south in pouring rain on the busy northbound carriageway of the Wellington Motorway, oblivious to the cars swerving out of her way. "An ambulance heading north saw her weaving towards them. They stopped and put on their emergency lights and, fortunately for them, she stopped also," a police spokesman said.

U.K. bids to build toilet on roof of the world

LONDON (R) — A British firm hopes to build a toilet on the roof of the world as the slopes of Mount Everest are now so packed with climbers who have nowhere to go. "There is no drainage up there. Human waste stays around for a long time. That leads to infection, including dysentery," Charles Clarke, medical adviser to the British Mountaineering Council, told The Guardian newspaper. Thousands use the Nepalese and Tibetan base camps every year, posing hygiene problems for authorities who are coming to Britain later this month for talks on how to improve the environment. That is when Philip Tolan, a toilet manufacturer from the Scottish city of Glasgow, hopes to pitch for business. "It may seem like quite a challenge but we have products which would be ideal for such a difficult location," he told the paper.

California scraps wild west laws

SACRAMENTO, California (AFP) — Lawmakers in California have done away with some of the vestiges of the old west by scrapping provisions from its books restricting where "Wanted: Dead or Alive" posters can be hung and the movement of donkeys and horses. The provisions, that date back to 1872 when California was part of the old west instead of the left coast, were scrapped from the state code last week in a bid to address concerns by constituents that laws were too "complicated," officials said. Under the new streamlined code, winners of the famed pistol duels will no longer be required to compensate the loser's spouse. The changes, which take effect on Jan. 1, also do away with restrictions for displaying "Wanted: Dead or Alive" posters and for allowing donkeys, horses and bulls to roam wild.

3 rebels, 1 airman killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — At least three Tamil rebels and one airman were killed and a helicopter set ablaze in a rebel attack on a major military airport in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna peninsula early Tuesday, military sources said.

Two other rebels were seriously wounded and left behind by the small rebel group after the hour-long fight at Pallaly Airport in the Tamil-rebel controlled peninsula, the sources said. The wounded rebels were taken to a military hospital.

Two airmen were also wounded. The sources said the control tower at the airport was secure and in the hands of government forces.

The sources said rebel weapons and radios used by the attackers were found by troops after the attack.

It was the first time the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas had penetrated the large base in Jaffna, 320 kilometres north of the Sri Lankan capital Colombo.

The base is the military's biggest installation in the Jaffna peninsula and a sizable number of soldiers and airmen are based there.

There were no reported injuries at the base in Indian Head, Maryland, which houses navy weapons and ammunition.

The blast, which occurred about 10:45 p.m. EDT (0245 GMT Tuesday), was contained in a single building, the base spokesman said. A fire broke out, but base personnel were able to cope by themselves.

"We have offers from the local fire department to come in and help, and we do not need it," Mr. McGraw said.

A navy spokesman at the Pentagon said the explosion involved conventional "cartridge-activated devices" such as those that propel a pilot's ejection seat from a navy aircraft.

"We're not talking large explosive shells here," Navy Commander Stephen Pietropoli said by telephone. He said the aftermath of the blast was "more a question of a smoulder than a real fire."

The Sheriff's Department of Charles County, where the weapons centre is located, said there had been no need to evacuate anyone and that no injuries were reported.

He said while not all tourism was sex-oriented, Asia would need to re-examine attitudes towards implicitly using the sex industry as a tourist attraction.

This particularly applies to countries that are just beginning to rely on tourism as a quick solution to earning foreign exchange.

Bhaichand Patel, UNDP officer-in-charge in the Philippines, said HIV/AIDS, more than a public-health problem, was a major factor in a country's socio-economic agenda.

Citing a World Bank report, he said many of those who fell ill and eventually died of AIDS in developing countries were from the economically active and productive group in society.

Officials said although prevention could be costly for most of the developing countries, it was far cheaper to invest in preventive activities than battling widespread AIDS.

"For most Asian countries, the insurance premium on the AIDS epidemic when compared to the costs and strains imposed on the nation state is the lesser of two evils," Mr. Thant said.

He said that, while there was wide disparity between estimates and actual numbers, a clear trend showed the epidemic was moving steadily towards developing countries, particularly those in Asia.

Mr. Thant said two million of the total 14 million HIV cases in the world were from South and South East Asia, adding that the situation was likely to become even more severe in the future.

He cited World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 10 million, or 30 per cent, of the 30 million to 40 million HIV cases worldwide by year 2000 might be from Asia alone.

India and Thailand, Mr. Thant said, had fewer than 1,000 HIV cases in 1987. By 1993, the infections were estimated to have grown to at least one million cases in India and half a million in Thailand.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic will force a re-thinking of the role of tourism in economic development, Mr. Thant said.

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Blast rocks U.S. Navy ordnance centre

WASHINGTON (R) — An explosion rocked the headquarters of the U.S. Navy ordnance centre 40 kilometres south of Washington on the Potomac River late Monday night, officials said.

There were no reported injuries at the base in Indian Head, Maryland, which houses navy weapons and ammunition.

The blast, which occurred about 10:45 p.m. EDT (0245 GMT Tuesday), was contained in a single building, the base spokesman said. A fire broke out, but base personnel were able to cope by themselves.

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AIDS epidemic threatening 'Asian promise'

MANILA (R) — The AIDS epidemic is threatening growth and progress in booming Asia, where 30 per cent of world HIV cases are projected to be found by 2000, speakers at an Asian Development Bank (ADB) sponsored meeting said Tuesday.

They said a large commercial sex industry and intravenous drug use were hastening the spread of the disease in the region, known as the world's engine of growth.

Although the severity of the threat of AIDS varies from country to country, the disease is bound to have serious economic and social costs, they said.

"The HIV epidemic is the enemy of 'Asian promise'," ADB Vice-President Peter Sullivan said at the start of a meeting of the ADB and the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) on the economic implications of HIV/AIDS.

"It threatens much of the progress that has been made over the past two decades and endangers economic growth in countries that have introduced growth-enhancing, economy-wide reforms only recently," he said.

In Asia, the first cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) were reported only in the mid-1980s but by 1991 over one million cases of infection with the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) were estimated to have already occurred, ADB economist Myo Thant said in a paper.

He said that, while there was wide disparity between estimates and actual numbers, a clear trend showed the epidemic was moving steadily towards developing countries, particularly those in Asia.

Mr. Thant said two million of the total 14 million HIV cases in the world were from South and South East Asia, adding that the situation was likely to become even more severe in the future.

He cited World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that 10 million, or 30 per cent, of the 30 million to 40 million HIV cases worldwide by year 2000 might be from Asia alone.

India and Thailand, Mr. Thant said, had fewer than 1,000 HIV cases in 1987. By 1993, the infections were estimated to have grown to at least one million cases in India and half a million in Thailand.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic will force a re-thinking of the role of tourism in economic development, Mr. Thant said.

He said that, while there was wide disparity between estimates and actual numbers, a clear trend showed the epidemic was moving steadily towards developing countries, particularly those in Asia.

Families quiet on Presley-Jackson marriage

LOS ANGELES (R) — The family of Michael Jackson remained silent Tuesday on the announcement by the only daughter of Elvis Presley that she and the pop superstar had married in a secret ceremony 11 weeks ago.

Jackson's spokesman, Lee Solters, refused to comment and John McLaughlin, the Jackson family spokesman, said the family had no comment on Lisa Marie's disclosure.

Lisa Marie's mother, Priscilla Presley, who divorced the "king of rock 'n' roll" several years before his death 20 years ago, said through her spokesman she was "very supportive of Lisa Marie and everything she does."

Real estate mogul Donald Trump, the landlord of the newlyweds at his luxurious Trump Tower in New York, told reporters he had known the couple's secret "for a long time."

A statement by Lisa Marie, 26, was issued by Jackson's production company, MJJ Productions.

In the statement, Lisa Marie, the only child of Elvis Presley, said, "my married name is Mrs. Lisa Marie Presley-Jackson. My marriage to Michael Jackson took place in a private ceremony outside the United States 11 weeks ago."

"It was not formally announced until now for several reasons, foremost being that we are both very private people living in the glare of the public media. We both wanted a private marriage ceremony without the distraction of a media circus."

"I am very much in love with Michael. I dedicate my life to being his wife. I understand and support him, we both look forward to raising a family and living happy, healthy life together."

"We hope our friends and fans will understand and respect our privacy."

The wedding unites two of the richest people in show business.

Lisa Marie's assets from her father's will are estimated to be \$150 million, while her new husband is believed to be worth in excess of \$250 million.

The couple had their first date on Feb. 2 when they went to Las Vegas together to watch a show by the 60's groups The Temptations and the Fifth Dimension, according to news reports.

At the time, Lisa Marie was estranged from her husband, musician Danny Keough, with whom she has two children. The couple reportedly got a "quickie" divorce in Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic on May 6.

Dominican Judge Hugo Alvarez Perez, who announced last month that he had officiated at the marriage of Jackson and Lisa Marie, said they were married in a brief ceremony, complete with a wedding kiss and gold rings.

Judge Alvarez Perez' announcement in mid-July was initially greeted with skepticism by the world's press.

"It was a normal ceremony, more or less lasting 12 minutes," the judge told WSVN-TV in the Miami suburb of Hialeah Monday. "He was a little nervous," the judge said, referring to Jackson, whom he said presented Presley with a "very nice ring."

The judge said the newlyweds exchanged "a little kiss" before being whisked away by bodyguards. Judge Alvarez Perez was in Miami

World News

Spirit of Woodstock flagging 25 years later

NEW YORK (AFP) — The spirit of Woodstock is flagging 25 years after the legendary rock concert that helped define the 1960s. One anniversary event, a "Woodstock 25" concert, has been cancelled and replaced by a more subdued celebration. Promoters are struggling to attract a new generation of fans. The original Woodstock drew 400,000 people to a farm in Bethel, New York, where the rain-soaked crowd listened to acts like Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Sly & the Family Stone. The event was a cultural phenomenon, but the "Woodstock 25" event, which was supposed to be a celebration of the original, has been cancelled. Promoters are struggling to attract a new generation of fans. The original Woodstock drew 400,000 people to a farm in Bethel, New York, where the rain-soaked crowd listened to acts like Jimi Hendrix, Janis Joplin, and Sly & the Family Stone. The event was a cultural phenomenon, but the "Woodstock 25" event, which was supposed to be a celebration of the original, has been cancelled. Promoters are struggling to attract a new generation of fans.



An exhausted Rwandan refugee rests on the road near the northwestern Rwandan town of Ruhengeri as thousands of Rwandan refugees return home. The Red Cross has distributed 50 tonnes of food to several thousands of Rwandan refugees from Zaire to Ruhengeri (AFP photo)

Abiola trial adjourned on eve of petroleum strike

Lagos (Agencies) — The treason trial of Nigerian opposition leader Moshood Abiola, who has declared himself elected head of state, was adjourned Tuesday for a day after the defence challenged the court's jurisdiction. The court sources said. Mr. Abiola heads a campaign against military rule, which is backed by pro-democracy activists and petroleum industry workers who have been on strike for a month, doing serious damage to the economy of oil-rich Nigeria.

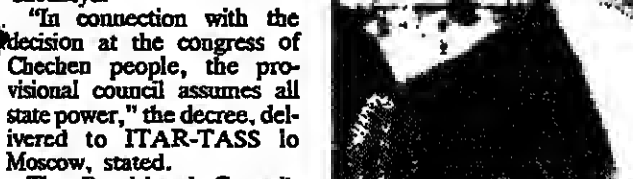
When the trial began last Thursday, violent demonstrations took place around the court premises. Witnesses said police shot three people dead. The police denied killing anybody but said they had arrested about 120 protesters. The adjournment came amid speculation that the regime of General Sani Abacha might bow to pressure from the trade unions and the pro-democracy movement to free the politician.

Rebels claim Chechen leader ousted

MOSCOW (AFP) — Rebels in the breakaway Russian Republic of Chechnya announced Tuesday that they had ousted President Dzhokhar Dudayev and had assumed "all authority" in the republic. ITAR-TASS news agency reported. The announcement was contained in a decree issued by an opposition Provisional Council which led armed opposition to Mr. Dudayev in recent weeks and which last month asked Moscow to recognise it as the authority in Chechnya.

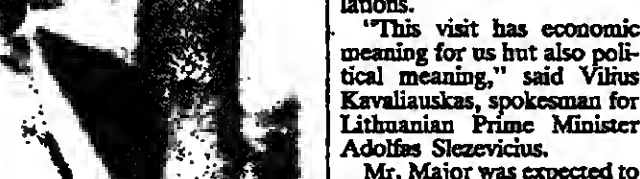
Major in Vilnius for talks with Baltic leaders

VILNIUS (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major arrived here Tuesday to meet with his Lithuanian, Estonian and Latvian counterparts for talks expected to focus on trade and Baltic-Russian relations. "This visit has economic meaning for us but also political meaning," said Vilnius Kavaliauskas, spokesman for Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius.



Dzhokhar Dudayev

The Provisional Council said it would immediately set up a government of "national renaissance" and asserted that any resident of the Caucasus mountain republic who continued to back Mr. Dudayev was "committing a crime against the Chechen people." "All decrees directed against the people, all orders and resolutions and other documents adopted by the Dudayev regime are declared invalid and will not be carried out," the decree stated, according to ITAR-TASS. Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force bomber pilot, became Chechnya's first democratically elected president in October 1991, at which time he also unilaterally declared Chechnya's independence from Russia.



Major in Vilnius for talks with Baltic leaders

Indian opposition lawmakers quit parliamentary committees in protest

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Opposition lawmakers Tuesday resigned from all parliamentary committees and announced a three-week boycott of parliament, outraged by the government's refusal to accept blame for India's biggest financial scandal. Cutting across all divisions among the opposition, the parties said their MPs would not return to parliament for the rest of the month-long monsoon session, which began on July 25.

Aspects of legislative business and oversee government functioning. "Our next step will be to go to the people," Janata Dal leader Sharad Yadav said in the Lok Sabha, or lower house, seemingly holding out an opposition threat to resign en masse from parliament itself. Atal Behari Vajpayee, BJP leader, voiced regret that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party government had done nothing to break the deadlock over the report on the scandal that the opposition wanted scrapped.

The protest climaxed four days of turmoil sparked by a government report rebutting the findings of a bipartisan parliamentary committee which blamed administrative lapses for the \$1.3-billion bank scam. Leaders of the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), the centrist Janata Dal (People's Party) and the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) said their MPs were quitting all legislative committees. India's bicameral parliament has an array of committees to deal with various

the findings as "unwarranted" and "unfair," and rejected demands that the ministers be punished. It said the scam — allegedly carried out by a nexus of bankers and brokers who siphoned off public funds in fraudulent securities deals to play the stock market — was the result of a systemic failure rather than administrative lapses. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Vidya Charan Shukla Tuesday pleaded the government's case, saying it had no intention to denigrate the parliamentary panel and appealing to opposition leaders to think "coolly." He rejected demands that the Action Taken Report be withdrawn in its entirety, but urged the opposition to treat it merely as an interim and not a final document detailing government response to the scam. Until a final document more palatable to the opposition is ready to be put to parliament, the legislature should carry on its business, Mr. Shukla said. "No, no, no," opposition members chanted in response before trooping out. The lower house speaker, Shivraj Patil, appealed for a government-opposition dialogue to resolve the issue.

U.K. soldiers arrive in Rwanda

KIGALI (R) — British soldiers flew into Rwanda's mortar-scarred airport Tuesday, starting an aid mission that will bring 600 to the central African country wrecked by civil war, massacres and one of the worst refugee crises in modern times. Operation Gabriel, led by Lieutenant-Colonel Michael Warmby, is the largest deployment of British troops in Africa since they oversaw Zimbabwe's first multiracial elections 14 years ago. "There will be about five Hercules (C-130 aircraft) coming in today," Royal Air Force Squadron Leader Phil Hamhly said. An advance party of eight Royal Air Force airmen jogged down the loading ramp of a C-130 plane just after dawn and were met by U.S. soldiers already deployed at the runway.

think have a combination of cholera and dysentery," said Nurse Karin Vandesbroek in the compound filled with sick. In the Zaire border town of Goma, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, said she would tell Rwanda's more than two million refugees to go home only when the new government showed it could deliver on promises to protect them. In southwestern Rwanda, French forces which deployed with 2,500 troops in Operation Turquoise in June to patrol a "safe haven" could be preparing to leave by Aug. 22. France is apparently hesitating on this since the U.N., which has been pleading for equipment and aircraft to help deploy African troops who agreed to go to Rwanda two months ago, wants Turquoise forces to stay longer. Although tens of thousands of Hutu refugees have begun returning, the majority are staying behind in Zairean camps. Some are clearly terrified of being under RPF rule. Many others are linked with the massacres of 500,000 Tutsis and opposition Hutus carried out by Hutu supporters of then-President Juvenal Habyarimana after he was assassinated on April 6 along with the president of neighbouring Burundi. Both presidents were Hutus. Rwanda's new Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu Tuesday shrugged off a possible threat by troops from the former Rwandan

British medical staff in the northwestern town of Ruhengeri will treat refugees falling sick on the road home from hellish camps in eastern Zaire where thousands are dying of disease. In a three-month bloodbath, Hutu extremists butchered an estimated 500,000 Tutsis and Hutus who had opposition parties. Some 2.7 million Hutus then fled the country to escape advancing guerrillas from the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF). British engineers will be based in the northern town of Byumba to help rebuild bridges and repair roads damaged during the fighting which ended with a victory by the RPF last month. Other soldiers will camp out in the Amahoro Sports Stadium in downtown Kigali, where Canadian troops are also based. The British, who will take up to two weeks to complete their arrival, join troops from the United States, Canada, Australia and a handful of African countries in the humanitarian mission. As with other Western deployments, the British forces are moving into Rwanda to a trickle that contradicts government promises to act fast to stem the tide of refugee deaths. Col. Warmby said the mission aimed to create a climate of calm to entice refugees back from the camps in Zaire and to help rebuild some of the war-damaged infrastructure. Teams will manage vehicle mechanics, road maintenance, rebuild bridges blown up during the fighting, clear unexploded ordnance littered around the country from fighting and send out medical staff to care for homecoming refugees. Col. Warmby said the soldiers, serving under the U.N. flag, would carry weapons sufficient only for self-protection. The British mission was announced by the government last week after Baroness Lynda Chalker, the overseas development minister, visited eastern Zaire where refugees are dying of disease in their hundreds each day. But it was apparently delayed because of problems in transporting British forces, hit by recent defence cuts, and their equipment to the remote African nation. A total of 200 U.S. troops are expected in the capital by the end of the week. Some 600 Canadians and 300 Australians are also on their way.

army to oust his government. "They have fought, and they have lost. Now they can start a guerrilla (war), but the question is whether they have a clear objective. Those who only fight for personal or regional interests... cannot succeed," Mr. Twagiramungu told Belgian Radio from Kigali. Thousands of troops loyal to the government of assassinated President Juvenal Habyarimana are massed in neighbouring Zaire. "We do not want to reopen another chapter of massacres," Mr. Twagiramungu said, urging all Rwandans to try and reconcile their differences. "The RPF has accepted me as the prime minister, therefore I believe that I am the prime minister of all Rwandans, not only of the RPF," he said. "I am not an alibi, a pawn or a puppet," he added. Meanwhile, representatives of 44 donor nations gathered in Geneva Tuesday to discuss a U.N. appeal for almost half a billion dollars in emergency aid to Rwanda. Peter Hansen, U.N. Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, opening the day-long meeting, described a "hellish situation" in Rwanda, but said it "is not too late to speak of prevention."



U.S. troops unload food from a Canadian plane as a U.N. chopper lands at Kigali Airport (AFP photo)



U.S. troops unload food from a Canadian plane as a U.N. chopper lands at Kigali Airport (AFP photo)

Berlusconi criticised as parliament debate looms

ROME (R) — Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi — now only a single point ahead of Italy's neo-fascist leader in the latest popularity poll — came under yet more attack from his allies Tuesday. One said he had too many business interests to be prime minister, the other accused him of riding roughshod over the government's smaller supporters. Further criticism seems bound to come when the media tycoon answers questions to parliament over the political muddles dogging his coalition. A series of setbacks over the past month has tarnished Mr. Berlusconi's golden image and wiped the broad smile from his perennially sun-tanned face. Doubts have been raised about the stability of his right-wing tripartite coalition and financial markets have taken fright at the prospect of a possible return to the had old days of weak, short-lived governments. Tuesday's parliamentary appearance is likely to focus on Mr. Berlusconi open fight with graft busting magistrates and his plan to distance himself from his business empire. The debate, at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT), may well see his main partner, the federalist Northern League, openly criticise him again, political analysts believe. "Berlusconi should not be prime minister," League leader Umberto Bossi was quoted as saying in Tuesday's Corriere della Sera newspaper. "How can a man with so much economic power be at the head of a government?" However, Mr. Bossi restated his party's commitment to stable government and willingness to work with Mr. Berlusconi. Caught up in a row over his handling of a corruption scandal that led to the arrest of his brother Paolo, Silvio Berlusconi failed to win political backing for his plan to put a wall between himself and his \$7 billion a year Fininvest empire. Parliament will not vote at the end of the debate, but it will provide insight into the level of dissent within his own coalition and will supply material for political pundits who have been speculating on his government's durability. Mr. Berlusconi may have felt further discomfort on Tuesday from the results of an opinion poll that showed his rating was slipping in favour of neo-fascist National Alliance leader Gianfranco Fini. The poll, by the SWG polling institute for Famiglia Cristiana magazine, said only 21.4 per cent of Italians would vote for Mr. Berlusconi were it possible to directly elect the prime minister. In February, 33.4 per cent said they would do so. The rating of Fini, who has cultivated his image as a mediator in the recent coalition spats, shot up to 20.3 per cent from 8.7 per cent. Mr. Berlusconi nearly brought his government down last month with a decree that let scores of corruption suspects leave jail. Only five days after it was introduced, the League

forced Mr. Berlusconi into a humiliating retreat — his first climbdown since entering politics at the start of the year. A few days later, Mr. Berlusconi was deeply embarrassed when graft-busters launched a probe that not only touched Fininvest, but also led to the arrest of Paolo Berlusconi on suspicion of bankrolling alleged bribes paid by the group. In another sign of dissent within the coalition, the leader of the tiny Christian Democratic Centre (CCD) party called Tuesday for more coordination in the disparate majority. CCD leader Pierferdinando Casini pressed home demands for a meeting of all the leaders of parties in Mr. Berlusconi's coalition that included his party, which has two ministers. "Let me remind Berlusconi of the thing: The parliamentary majority is not run on a pact between the leaders of the three largest parties," he told Il Messaggero newspaper.

Pacific nations move to protect forests, fisheries

BRISBANE, Australia (AFP) — South Pacific island nations made it plain Tuesday they would no longer tolerate the "highly destructive" exploitation of its limited resources. In a 10-page communique at the conclusion of the two-day, 15-nation South Pacific Forum, heads of governments expressed concern "at the way in which forests throughout the region and the world are being harvested in a highly destructive manner." During Tuesday's forum, the prime ministers of timber-producing nations Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu held a separate meeting. The communique "warmly welcomed" their subsequent agreement and said it would result in work towards a common code of conduct "governing logging of indigenous forests, to which companies operating in their countries will have to adhere." Monitoring of logging and exports will be urgently increased and senior officials are to meet within the next two months to begin implementing the decisions. On Monday, Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating and Solomon's Prime Minister Francis Billy Hilili announced the suspension of a logging licence held by Malaysian company Kumpalan Emas Group operating in the Solomons because it had "consistently breached the conditions of its licence by carrying out illegal forestry practices." The mostly-Asian logging companies have voracious appetites for logs in the Solomons, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu. Mr. Keating said the forum showed a political commitment to use resources in a sustainable way. The forum communique said countries agree that a multilateral approach on fishing will be strengthened to promote the sustainable exploitation of fish stocks within the Pacific. The forum will define sustainable catch levels for all fisheries. The South Pacific tuna

fishery contains 50 per cent of the world's canned tuna and supplies 90 per cent of Japan's tuna needs. The South Pacific Forum warned France Tuesday that a resumption of nuclear tests in the Pacific would be a major setback to the current positive trend in the group's relations with Paris. "If France were to cease testing permanently, this would contribute significantly to improving further relations between France and the forum countries," it said in a communique issued at the close of its 25th meeting here. France has staged a long series of nuclear tests at Mururoa atoll but in April 1992 declared a moratorium on testing in the South Pacific which is still in place. "Any resumption of testing would be a major setback to the current positive trend in relations between France and the region," the 15-member grouping said. A report at the weekend that there was a division in France's leadership over resumption of tests caused a considerable stir in New Zealand. On New Caledonia, the commune noted that in the French territory "real economic and social rebalancing was still some distance away." The forum "affirmed its support for continuing contacts with the French territories as a positive contribution towards the Madgson process." The 1988 Matigoo Accords provide for a referendum in 1998 on independence of the French Territory. The commune "noted in particular with pleasure" that the Kanak Training Fund was now operating successfully with a number of fellowships granted. The forum secretariat's relations with France and its territories "were on a good footing" the document said. A delegation from the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) met over dinner Monday with forum leaders and delegation members. FLNKS spokesman Rock Wamytan said.

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The law is above all

THERE IS no denial that opposition to government policies is a legitimate and constitutional right. The essence of democracy is that it condones pluralism and guarantees those who do not agree with the policies and programmes of the government the right to protest those policies and programmes through all lawful means.

The laws of the land, written in accordance with the Constitution, state that certain institutions, especially the Monarchy and the Armed Forces, should not be discussed in any negative way. They also forbid the use of places of worship as pulpits for political campaigning. The Monarchy and the Armed Forces are guarantors of the Constitution and the security of the country. The two should always be kept out of the rhetoric of politicians or the press and that is clearly expressed in the Press and Publication Law passed only last year.

These facts are very clear to the opposition. It is, therefore, mind-boggling to see some opposition elements resorting to these illegal means in their opposition to the peace process. What is more puzzling is the involvement of some deputies who are well-aware of the Constitution, the different laws and the principles of the National Charter. The deputies should know very well that the forum for opposing the government is under the dome of the House of Parliament and not in the streets or the mosques.

The deputies and other opposition figures should also realise that the people of Jordan are fully knowledgeable of the principles that guide Jordan's path. The people of Jordan, politicised as they are, are fully conversant with the political and economic dangers and challenges that the country faces. These are the 1990s, not the 1960s. Rhetoric and slogans of the 1960s are long dead and abandoned. They do not correspond with the new realities with which the Kingdom and the people have to deal. Once opposition realises all of that, it must, sooner than later, reposition itself in a manner that will serve Jordan, the Jordanian people and the Arab cause in general by abiding by the law and respecting the Constitution. The opportunity is there and missing it is a sin.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Tuesday said national unity at this juncture was of paramount importance for Jordan as it strives to regain usurped Arab rights. Mohammad Qudah said that Jordanians of different origins have been living together since the start of occupation of Palestine and have been enjoying security and stability that have been envied by Arabs around them. Therefore, they have all the reasons to remain united and to stop any attempt designed to tamper with national unity, he said. The Palestinians and the Jordanians have shared their living, lived through sufferings and hardships and are bound to have the same destiny together, said Mr. Qudah. It is therefore incumbent on all citizens to fight suspect voices trying to damage the relationship between the two peoples and distort the image of unity, he said. Referring to the Washington Declaration, he said that article three has reemphasised Islamic Hashemite sovereignty over the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, something which should be considered as a major gain for the nation, contributing towards further bolstering national unity. He said that the Hashemites have succeeded in securing custody over the holy sites in the face of Israel's intransigence, thus realising a great achievement for the Arab and Islamic Nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dastour expressed the view that the U.S.-Western alliance would not launch a large scale military operation against Iran in retaliation for the spate of bombing incidents in Europe and the U.S., allegedly committed by Iranian agents. Saleh Qallab said any such adventure would be costly and could trigger a large scale war in the region. The writer expressed the view that action against Iran would take the form of a siege on Iranian ports on the one hand and allowing Israel to launch aggression on selected Iranian targets on the other. There is much talk in the Western media about possible air strikes and other hostile action against Iranian-backed Hizbollah bases, and this, he said, is carried out routinely by the Israelis. But escalation of the present level of attacks could trigger a wide-scale war in the Middle East that would be detrimental to the peace process, said the writer. On the whole, any large scale military activity on the part of the West, added the writer, would not be an easy task and could back-fire in a most serious form and consequence.

Washington Watch

The search for foreign policy success

By Dr. James Zogby

THE CEREMONIES surrounding the Jordanian-Israeli signing of the Washington Declaration last week provided a welcome boost to U.S. President Bill Clinton, one that should not be underestimated.

Beleaguered by foreign crises on four continents (Haiti, Bosnia, Korea and Rwanda), the president needed an opportunity to show off a success in at least one area of foreign policy. The Washington signing provided two days of leading foreign policy stories that were not critical of President Clinton, and pictures of him demonstrating U.S. leadership replaced photos of the suffering in Rwanda and Haiti.

Those same two days silenced his critics. The combination of unresolved (and, some believe, unresolvable) foreign crises nagging personal problems (from Whitewater and the Paula Jones case), the excruciatingly slow pace of the health care debate in Congress and the relentless criticism of his Republican opponents — they have all taken a toll on Clinton's popularity. Recent polls show that the public's approval of Clinton's performance in office is a very low 40 per cent. And while the public's perception of his work on some foreign policy issues is positive, Clinton's overall foreign policy rating is a dismal 34 per cent.

In truth, the media is partially to blame for the severity of Clinton's negative ratings. Daily stories and chilling photos of the tragedy in Rwanda, of the renewed defiance of the Bosnian Serbs and of chaos in Haiti create the impression of a world out of control. While polls also show that Americans do not want U.S. forces involved in any of these conflicts and do not place foreign policy high on their list of priorities — they remain, nevertheless, troubled by the feeling that their country, the world's only superpower, can do nothing to provide stability and order to a world in need of it.

The President's supporters point to his administration's many successes in foreign affairs and to his reordering of foreign policy priorities to emphasise economic issues as vital to U.S. national interest. As defined by President Clinton on the eve of his departure to attend the G-7 summit, the new priority for U.S. foreign policy is to "create jobs in a world of prosperity."

In particular, supporters emphasise the president's new three-pronged approach to post-cold war foreign policy: promoting democracy, economic prosperity, and a defence posture adapted to the new environment. Within this framework Clinton's supporters point to several successes in addition to those associated with the Middle East.

First, Clinton won approval for a historic \$4.1 billion in aid to Russia to support its democratic and economic reforms. Although many felt that there was no need for this programme because the cold war was over, Clinton successfully argued that the post-cold war peace had yet to be won, and demonstrating this commitment to Russia's reform programme was a worthwhile investment.

Second, despite strong opposition from his own party, Mr. Clinton invested a great deal of political capital to enact NAFTA and secure side-agreements on human rights and other issues. He also saw through the final series of the Uruguay Round of GATT to make certain that the previous seven years of negotiations weren't wasted. And on critical aspects of bilateral trade, Mr. Clinton has heavily involved his administration on behalf of major U.S. industries.

Third, on the issue of arms control, Mr. Clinton has pledged to strengthen international arms control regimes and to take the lead in negotiating a comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty. Administration supporters point to his steadfastness and careful diplomacy in pursuing U.S. nonproliferation goals in North Korea. They also point out that when Mr. Clinton took office, four of the former Soviet Republics had nuclear weapons, but the administration has negotiated agreements with three of them to eliminate their entire nuclear arsenals.

Yet despite these achievements, the administration is still harshly criticised in every medium for its handling of foreign policy. Only a few weeks ago the major news magazines were roundly and severely critical of the president. Said Time, "The smell of failure, fairly or unfairly, is beginning to gather around his global management team, and if he slips over that ill-defined line, he might soon be written off by friends and foes alike as incapable of crafting a strong or coherent American foreign policy." And U.S. News and World Report was no less critical when it noted, "After having been run out of Somalia, faced down in Haiti, frustrated in North Korea and trumped at every turn in

Bosnia, 'assertive multilateralism' as practiced by the Clinton administration is earning a more accurate description. Oxymoron."

In this context, the grand ceremonies in Washington last week brought a brief surge in national pride and respect for the role played by the president. Even former Secretary of State James Baker was caught up in the mood when on July 25 he had strong praise for the Democratic president saying, "The approach the Clinton administration has followed in the Middle East has absolutely been the right approach."

Mr. Baker went on to more broadly praise the administration's performance, noting "I think they're doing a very good job in the Middle East. I think they're doing a good job with respect to their policy towards Russia... They're doing a good job in terms of their policy towards Iraq and the Arab Gulf... a very good job with respect to NAFTA and GATT."

Mr. Baker offered only the qualification, "But in some other areas... there has been too much stop and go... to some extent there has been an erosion of American credibility."

But the respite and the praise were short-lived. Only July 27 at a foreign policy forum organised by the National Republican Party, the "big guns" of that party's foreign policy establishment blasted President Clinton's performance.

Mr. Baker did a quick turnaround for the forum. He accused Mr. Clinton of paying little attention to foreign affairs "until something goes wrong, and then all hell breaks loose." He said that Mr. Clinton "has squandered American credibility and undermined our preeminence around the world." Mr. Baker also accused Mr. Clinton of lacking "an overall plan and strategic direction" for his foreign policy, which he said led to "flip-flops (that) debate the currency of U.S. credibility."

Joining in the criticism were former Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, former U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger. Mr. Cheney, who like Mr. Baker is a potential Republican candidate for president in 1996, stated that in his view the Clinton administration was one of the "least competent in the 20th century," and called Clinton's policy on Haiti an "abject national embarrassment." He also accused the Democrats of allowing the military to be dangerously underfunded.

Mr. Kissinger, in his own professorial style, criticised the administration's lack of foreign policy experience, saying, "This administration has not been able to distinguish between professional concepts and foreign policy."

The problems faced by the Clinton administration are real and complex, and — despite Republican criticisms — are no fault of their own.

Each of the crisis areas addressed by critics are too complex to be open to simple solutions. And it is a fact that there is no consensus among the various branches of government as to how to resolve them. The Pentagon, for example, has been emphatic in its opposition to a military option for Bosnia or Haiti. The Central Intelligence Agency has been most resistant to provide support to the elected Haitian government of Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

And Congress is deeply divided over whether or not to endorse the use of U.S. military forces to play a role in bringing order to any of these trouble spots.

What both Congress and the president know is that there is little U.S. public support for any military involvement. Polls show that public opinion is against using U.S. military forces in almost every case. In Haiti, only 38 per cent of Americans feel that vital U.S. interests are at stake, and only 45 per cent support the use of force to restore democracy in that country. Polls have consistently shown that the U.S. public is opposed to sending troops to Bosnia, where only 31 per cent feel the U.S. has a vital stake. And the numbers are even more grim with regard to Rwanda, where only 81 per cent see vital U.S. interests at stake and only 28 per cent favour the introduction of U.S. ground troops. Only in the Korean case is the public in favour of using U.S. troops, but the foreign policy establishment fears that a confrontation with North Korea will not be an easy one since it will not be supported by our regional allies or China.

Another factor compounding these problems facing the administration, which is ignored by Clinton's Republican critics, is that almost all of these crises have been "inherited" from, i.e. unresolved by, the Bush administration. The Bush

administration knew, for example, of North Korea's nuclear programme as early as 1989, and they had no Bosnia, Haiti or African policy to speak of.

A final difficulty facing the Clinton administration has been its inability to define new and consistent policies in response to these crises, mobilise public support behind their initiatives, and to build sufficient domestic and international confidence to implement their initiatives. The failure to win confidence to implement their short-lived "lift and strike" European support for their short-lived "lift and strike" initiative for Bosnia; the inconsistent policy towards Haiti (and the miscommunication which led to Panama's rejection of Clinton's "safe haven" initiative which forced the President to all but abandon his new policy after only two days); the refusal of U.S. allies to support administration efforts to isolate Korea and Burma — these have all been embarrassing to the administration and have caused questions about their ability to play a leadership role in international affairs. Failures such as those have led some to suggest that Clinton has turned former President Theodore Roosevelt's maxim of "Speak softly but carry a big stick" around to "Talk tough and carry no stick at all."

While fault for these failures is being placed on the U.S. foreign policy team for not being more forceful or consistent, such criticism may not be completely fair. In the new unipolar post-cold war world, the U.S. cannot simply act alone to resolve each and every crisis. When allies, especially regional allies most affected by a particular crisis, reject U.S. initiatives; and when other countries, out of their own economic interest, seek to undercut U.S. efforts to build an international consensus regarding "outlaw" regimes; when neither the U.S. military establishment nor the Congress (not to speak of U.S. public opinion) disavow the use of U.S. forces as a tool of international conflict resolution — in such a case it becomes difficult and even foolish to proceed.

Nevertheless, the administration continues to wrestle with instituting changes in both its approaches to these conflicts and in the composition of the foreign policy team that will project and implement those policies.

Secretary of Defence William Perry has made it clear that the U.S. will respond to the Bosnia crisis by either using forces if the Serbs continue to reject peace initiatives, or to use U.S. troops as peacekeepers if the current internationally-proposed settlement is agreed to by all parties. Negotiations with the North Koreans have resumed, and efforts to resolve the crisis in Haiti continue, including the discussion of the use of military forces.

The least promising and potentially most costly U.S. venture now underway is the dispatching of U.S. troops to Rwanda and the "round the clock" airlift of humanitarian relief to Zaire to assist the million-plus Rwandan refugees in that country. Critics wrongly contend that intervention, that such a highly visible U.S. involvement at this stage will only serve to put a U.S. stamp on the continuing disaster that can only get worse in the coming months.

Finally, it should be noted that efforts are underway to create a more visible, articulate and internationally respected stamp on U.S. foreign policy. The president, himself, has focused more intently on foreign policy issues in recent months. A number of foreign visits, an increased number of foreign visitors to the U.S. and the dispatching of his administration's top communications expert (David Gergen) to the State Department to assist the Department in better communicating its foreign policy objectives and achievements are all a part of this effort.

While Secretary of State Warren Christopher remains a highly regarded member of the president's cabinet, other administration officials have also begun to play more active international roles. Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown has won high marks from U.S. business leaders and from foreign officials for his successful activist policies. And Vice President Al Gore has stepped up his role as a major player in foreign affairs, a role that will be once again highlighted in September when he visits three continents to promote the administration's foreign policy efforts.

Significant changes in either the foreign policy team itself or in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy in one or more regions may yet occur before the end of 1994. As the recent signing on the White House lawn showed, success is sweet and can silence critics. What will propel the administration forward in the coming months is the search for more areas of success in an effort to build greater domestic and international confidence in U.S. leadership.

Red Socks dominate lacklustre German election campaign

By Richard Murphy
Reuters

BONN — A red sock hanging on a clothes line may seem an unlikely focus of political controversy 11 weeks before an election.

But as campaigning for elections on October 16 languishes in midsummer doldrums, it is virtually the only subject Germany's main political parties are arguing about.

Christian Democratic (CDU) Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his Social Democratic (SPD) rival Rudolf Scharping have been on holiday, in Austria and France respectively, and the next state polls in this marathon election year are not due until September.

With few other issues of substance exercising the two parties at the moment, the controversial sock has become the centre of attention.

It is featured on a jokey CDU election poster intended to suggest that the Social Democrats are getting too cosy with East Germany's reformed Communists — the "Red Socks."

"Of into the future... but not with Red Socks," reads the accompanying slogan.

The poster was prompted by the SPD's decision to set up a minority coalition with the greens in an East German state that depends for survival on the tacit support of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the reformed Communists.

The poster has produced the only real sparks in what has so far been a lacklustre

campaign, with Mr. Kohl's party accusing the Social Democrats of planning a radical leftist government in Bonn even if this means relying on PDS votes.

The Social Democrats responded in equally ironic vein, using the same theme of socks. It distributed a leaflet containing a photograph of Mr. Kohl in friendly conversation with former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker.

The punning slogan "Jezt sind wir aber vord den Socken, Herr Kohl!" literally, "Now we're out of our socks" — is a colloquialism meaning "now we are astonished," Mr. Kohl.

Behind the silly-season humour lies a serious issue which both parties will exploit to the full when campaigning gets going in earnest — the links each accuses the other of having with East German Communists, past and present.

The SPD realises it took a gamble by opting for a leftist coalition with the backing of reformed Communists in the state of Saxony-Anhalt.

With at least one opinion poll suggesting it has lost support as a result, it has issued repeated assurances that it is not contemplating similar arrangements at national level.

"This is not a model for Bonn," Social Democrat Party Manager Guenter Verheugen said in a letter to party members. "We have nothing in common with the PDS. This party is not a partner for us. There

will be no coalition with them or government tolerated by them."

Stung by CDU charges that it broke a taboo by giving the PDS a role on the fringes of power for the first time, the Social Democrats have retaliated by reminding the CDU and its liberal Free Democrat (FDP) coalition partners that they have many East German members who once collaborated with Communists.

Mr. Verheugen pointed out that both the CDU and the FDP absorbed their East German sister parties when Germany united, even though they had been so-called "hock parties" firmly under the control of the ruling Communists.

"The hock parties were part of the apparatus of repression," he said.

Leading Christian Democrats in East Germany have said they will not use the "Red Socks" poster because it trivialises the real electoral threat posed by the PDS, which has won around 20 per cent of the vote in recent local elections in the region.

But CDU General Secretary Peter Hintze is unrepentant. "The 'red socks' poster has fully achieved its purpose, which is to focus on the fact that the old Communist cadres of yesterday in the PDS are coming to power again with the help of the SPD," he said.

The reformed Communists, enjoying a resurgence of support from East Germans unhappy with the unfulfilled promises of unifica-

tion, are pleased to find themselves the centre of attention. The party even sent a tongue-in-cheek note to the CDU thanking it for its posters.

But the fate of another small party, the Free Democrats, will be of greater concern to Mr. Kohl when he returns from his lakeside retreat in Austria this month.

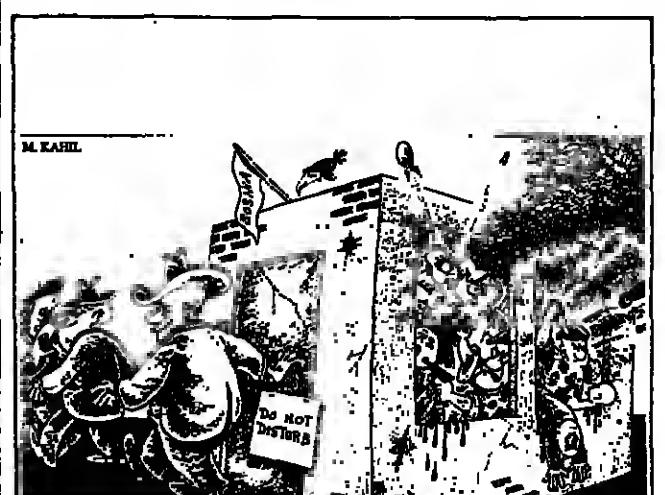
The FDP has been battered by defeats in state elections and lost all its seats in the European parliament in June, raising doubts about whether it will clear the five per cent hurdle necessary to reenter the Bonn parliament in October.

Mr. Kohl's standing in opinion polls has risen steadily as the economy climbs out of recession and most polls put him ahead of the Social Democrats, but he will almost certainly need the FDP at his side to remain in power.

The free Democrats acknowledge they are in crisis, choosing as a main election slogan: "This time everything is at stake."

Unlike the Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, they have yet to find the right image to accompany the slogan. The FDP acknowledges that preliminary photographs of leader and Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel show him looking buttoned-up and anxious.

It is looking for pictures in which he appears more confident and dynamic. Mr. Kinkel's socks are not expected to be featured.



LETTERS

Setting the record straight

To the Editor:

I WAS misquoted in the story entitled "Jordanians jubilant over summit," by Jamal Halaby of the Associated Press; (Jordan Times, July 7).

I never met the writer, not at least in the last two years, I was, however, visited by a young woman who stated she represented the Associated Press, and my answer to her question was as follows:

"Unless peace accords are accompanied by a definitive rise in standards of living on both sides of the river, I am afraid they could carry seeds of failure within them."

Osama Sha'sha's,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Serbia warns Bosnia Serbs to accept peace proposal

BELGRADE (Agencies) — The Serbian government on Tuesday told Bosnia Serbs leaders to accept an international peace plan or stand accused of "a crime against your own people."

The Bosnia Serbs have snubbed the plan, which would require them to surrender some territory won in more than two years of fighting. The proposal has been accepted by the Muslim-led Bosnian government and Croatia.

Bosnia's Serbs have come under increasing pressure from Serbia to accept the plan. Serbia and its ally in Yugoslavia, Montenegro, face tightened international sanctions unless Serbs go along with the peace proposal.

The Serbian government said in a statement that there was "no sense" keeping 11 million Yugoslavs waiting for sanctions to be lifted, and blasted Bosnia Serb leaders for dallying "until you clarify for yourselves things that are clear to the whole world."

"If you are still hindered by some selfish, personal or group interests... then you are on the way to committing a crime against your own people," Serbia said.

Although the warning was the strongest ever, it stopped short of cutting off vital funds, food and material to the Bosnia Serbs. Belgrade has been long accused of supporting Serbs in their war against Bosnia's Muslims and Croats.

The international plan — offered by the United States, Germany, France, Russia and Britain — would reduce Serb control over Bosnia from 70 per cent to 49 per cent. The rest would go to a Muslim-Croat federation.

The plan's authors rejected a Bosnia Serb offer to negotiate the proposal, and the Serbs were considering a referendum on the plan as a way of relieving pressure from their backers in Serbia and Russia.

The latest statement out of Belgrade follows a threat by Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, under pressure from Russia, to cut off material support to the Bosnia Serbs.

Mr. Milosevic, the chief instigator of the wars in Bosnia and Croatia, now wants to play peacemaker and save off the economic ruin that a tightening of sanctions would likely bring.

Sanctions imposed two years ago against Yugoslavia for fomenting the war have had a severe impact, but loopholes such as Serb-owned offshore companies have allowed the country to survive.

Bosnia Serbs launched the war, which has killed an estimated 200,000 people. In April 1992 after Muslims and Croats moved to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

In Bosnia, fierce fighting near government-held Visoko northwest of Sarajevo on Monday stalled talks on reopening land routes out of the city closed by the Serbs.

At least three civilians were killed in Serb shelling across Bosnia on Monday and Tuesday, U.N. peacekeepers and Bosnia radio said.

Serbs and government officials were due to resume talks late Tuesday, said Major Rob Amink, a U.N. peacekeeper spokesman. Serbs broke off the talks on Monday to protest the Visoko fighting.

The talks were to take place on U.N.-controlled Sarajevo airport, spokeswoman Claire Grimes said. The talks were to concentrate on the release of prisoners held by both sides as well as an exchange of information on people who have disappeared in the 27 months of fighting here.

They were also seeking an end to the use of snipers around the Bosnian capital. U.N. coordinator Sergio Vieira de Mello was to chair the talks between the Bosnian government minister responsible for U.N. relations, Hassan Muratovic, and the president of the self-declared Bosnian Serb parliament, Momcilo Krajcinovic.

The representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Andreas Kuhn, were also to take part, Ms. Grimes said.

U.N. officials here think the lack of progress in settling the prisoners issue is the main reason for the recent rise in tension in the city where the 380,000 inhabitants are again cut off from the outside world and taken as sniper targets.

Explaining their stay away from the talks early Tuesday, the Serbs accused the Bosnian government army of opening hostilities in the area around Visoko, 40 kilometres northwest of Sarajevo.

They refused to hold talks while the fighting continued, U.N. spokesman Dacre Holloway said.

The fighting in Visoko started early Monday and continued throughout the day, but U.N. officials said they did not know where the firing was coming from.

Lisa Jones, spokeswoman for the ICRC, said the first day of talks had agreed to concentrate initially on the exchange of prisoners and information on the missing persons in the eastern town of Gorazde and its surrounding area.

They agreed on the return of the bodies of 24 Bosnian soldiers killed by the Serbs and the exchange of information on 15 Bosnian soldiers who had disappeared.

At the same time, the government side agreed to free five out of 24 Serb soldiers held in Rado, Foca and Visegrad.

Ms. Jones said the U.N. and ICRC had decided to try to take the negotiations "step by step" rather than in one all-or-nothing package.

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There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy.

Lebanon's mainstream pro-Syrian Shiite Muslim group Amal issued a statement claiming responsibility for attacks on SLA positions at Saïdon and Kfar Falous villages.

There were no reports of casualties.

The Israelis and SLA responded by pounding the Iqim Al Tawfik to the north with artillery fire, the sources said.

Elsewhere in South Lebanon, a Red Cross convoy of medicine and fresh water was turned back by villagers just outside Yohmor on the edge of the "security zone."

An Israeli unit punched out of the "security zone" a week ago and entered Yohmor, blocking all road approaches with earth mounds and trapping its 3,000 inhabitants.

The Israelis later retreated to hills overlooking the village, opening fire on whoever tried to remove the obstacles. Vehicle traffic is forbidden, but pedestrians are allowed to move freely, reporters who visited the area said Tuesday.

Israeli forces have acceded to a Red Cross request to bring aid into Yohmor but on Tuesday 35 villagers gathered at the earthmounds outside the village and refused to take the supplies from the Red Cross on foot, demanding instead the organisation work on reopening the road.

The security sources identified the slain guerrilla as Mohammad Ahmad Jundi, 38, from the Nahr Al Bared Palestinian refugee camp in northern Lebanon.

But the statement issued by the PFLP later identified him as Mustafa Allal Qozbeir, a Moroccan national.

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WAITING: A Rwandan child refugee waits for water next to American soldiers in the Kibumba camp, some 30 kilometres north of Goma, Zaire. Safe drinking water has begun to arrive in the region and started to reach some of the 1.2 million Rwandan refugees crowded in the surrounding camps (see page 5) (AFP photo)

Guerrillas attack Israelis; 1 dead

MARJAYOUN, Lebanon (Agencies) — A Palestinian fighter was killed on Tuesday when resistance fighters attacked three fortified posts in occupied South Lebanon manned by Israeli troops and their militia allies, security sources said.

In another attack guerrillas fired rockets at an Israeli-manned crossing point into Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone but there were no reports of casualties.

Despite the flareup there was no sign of a major Israeli attack feared by Lebanon since Israeli and U.S. officials blamed the pro-Iranian Hizbollah for bombing Jewish and Israeli targets in Buenos Aires and London (see page 2).

The sources said the guerrilla died attacking a post manned by Israeli troops and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen at Braichit, a village in Israel's occupation zone a few kilometres north of the Israeli border, the sources said.

They said the Israelis and SLA forces responded by pounding nearby areas with machinegun and artillery fire.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) issued a statement later confirming it lost one of its men in the firefight and said two other guerrillas were wounded.

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Sanaa anxious to end U.N. role in reconciliation

SANAA (R) — Yemen, which reluctantly accepted U.N. mediation in its two-month civil war, is pressing to end the world body's involvement in post-war reconciliation, political and diplomatic sources said on Tuesday.

"We consider the (U.N.) Security Council resolutions have exhausted their purpose. The U.N. exerted efforts to end the military operations and these have already stopped," an official source said.

The war ended on July 7 with the defeat of a separatist bid in the south led by Ali Salem Al Beidh, head of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP). Mr. Beidh fled the country just before northern forces overran his breakaway state.

Sanaa has said that it viewed the civil war and aftermath as purely internal affairs and a political source said the government "believes future U.N. involvement can further complicate reconciliation efforts."

The Sanaa-based government, which argued that it fought the war to preserve the union forged in 1990, initially expressed strong reservations about Security Council ceasefire resolutions, saying they interfered in its internal affairs.

But Sanaa had accepted the resolutions reluctantly to preempt possible foreign recognition of the breakaway state set up in Aden after the civil war erupted on May 4.

It has maintained that the war was not between North and south Yemen but between a legitimate government and rebels.

"The last thing Sanaa wants to see now would be an attempt to consecrate the idea of talks between northern and southern Yemenis, and talks under U.N. auspices are bound to do exactly this," said one diplomat.

The government, snubbing U.N. efforts to promote post-war reconciliation, has insisted that a meeting in Geneva last week between U.N. troubleshooter Lakhdar Brahimi, representatives from Sanaa and defeated secessionists did not constitute talks.

Two Security Council resolutions in June urged a political dialogue among the warring parties.

Thursday's Geneva talks were held a day after the Sanaa cabinet said in a statement it had asked the U.N. to end its role in Yemen because the war had ended. It also insisted that any dialogue should be held on Yemeni soil.

"Justifications for a dialogue outside Yemen no longer exist," an official source said. "If it is going to be a dialogue between north and south it is rejected. If it is a dialogue with rebels, they can take advantage of a general amnesty, return home and take part in the dialogue inside Yemen."

On Sunday, President Ali Abdullah Saleh gave southern exiles who backed the rebellion until Aug. 15 to take advantage of the amnesty or face constitutional and judicial measures.

The official sources said the amnesty did not include 16 rebel leaders wanted for trial, including Mr. Beidh.

Mr. Saleh said he would ask states sheltering Mr. Beidh, ex-Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas, former vice-president of the secessionist state Abdu Rahman Al Jifri and former Defence Minister Haidam Qassem Taher to hand them back for trial.

The official source said Sanaa had already started talks with members of the YSP who had not backed the secession. The formerly Marxist YSP ruled South Yemen until the merger with the more conservative North Yemen in 1990.

"Yemen wants its U.N. file to be closed and that dialogue inside the country be encouraged," he said.

Dr. Shaath also said negotiations on security issues would start once the civilian track was completed, while talks on elections for a Palestinian council are scheduled to begin on Aug. 8.

The delegates are expected to round up their latest session on Thursday.

Dr. Shaath expressed hope the talks here can be ended by early next week. But Gen. Rothchild has said this is optimistic, noting the issue of budgeting touches on all subjects involved in the talks on so-called early empowerment.

The negotiations, in their third week, resumed Monday but did not get to the money issue until Dr. Shaath's return from Gaza. Draft agreements on health and education were reported last week, and Israelis said Tuesday the talks were making continued progress but gave no details.

Gen. Rothchild suggested that Israel train Palestinians to run tax collection as a step in a transitional programme which is yet to be worked out.

The Palestinians announced formation of a tax authority earlier this week. It is studying ways to train tax collectors as well as taking over tax record and computers from Israeli occupation authorities, said Dr. Shaath, the planning minister in the PLO's Gaza-Jericho administration.

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"Yemen wants its U.N. file to be closed and that dialogue inside the country be encouraged," he said.

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The delegates are expected to round up their latest session on Thursday.

Dr. Shaath expressed hope the talks here can be ended by early next week. But Gen. Rothchild has said this is optimistic, noting the issue of budgeting touches on all subjects involved in the talks on so-called early empowerment.

The negotiations, in their third week, resumed Monday but did not get to the money issue until Dr. Shaath's return from Gaza. Draft agreements on health and education were reported last week, and Israelis said Tuesday the talks were making continued progress but gave no details.

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Success

For example, of North Korea's nuclear peak of 1989, and they had no Bosnia. The Clinton administration's mobilise public support behind its new policy after only two days — these have all been emblematic and have caused questions about leadership role in international affairs. The failure of the Clinton administration to lead Theodore Roosevelt's main "big stick" around to "Talk to

failures is being placed on the U.S. not being more forceful or consistent. It is completely fair. In the end every crisis, when allies, especially other countries, out of their own self-interest, do not follow the U.S. leadership role in international affairs, the U.S. cannot simply sit back and wait for the crisis to pass. It must take the initiative to lead the crisis to its conclusion.

William Perry has made it clear that the Bosnia crisis is either a test of U.S. leadership or a test of U.S. leadership. The U.S. must take the initiative to lead the crisis to its conclusion.

peacekeepers if the current settlement is agreed to by all parties. The North Koreans have been in crisis in Haiti country, including a crisis of military forces, and potentially most costly U.S. the dispatching of U.S. troops to the clock" airlift of humanitarian aid to a million-plus Rwandan refugees. They rightly argue, however, the involvement at this stage will only on the continuing disaster that is coming months.

ated that efforts are underway to articulate and internationally a foreign policy. The president's intent on foreign policy issues of foreign visits, an increase to the U.S. and the dispatching of communications expert (for argument to assist the Department's foreign policy objectives at art of this effort.

te Warren Christopher remains of the president's cabinet, we also began to play more as a business leaders and from foreign activist policies. And Vice President up his role as a major player will be once again highlighted. It is three continents to promote the policy efforts.

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Arab Gulf states to align industrial standards

53 Pass the word Cetics 63 Energy

Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 7/28/94	Tokyo Close Date: 7/28/94
Sterling Pound	1.5355	1.5378
Deutsche Mark	1.5798	1.5790
Swiss Franc	1.3312	1.3320
French Franc	5.4000	5.4975**
Japanese Yen	99.45	99.51
European Currency Unit	1.2103	1.2109**

European Currency Unit Rates Date: 7/28/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.25	4.50	4.93	5.37
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.37	5.75	6.43
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.87
Swiss Franc	4.06	4.12	4.18	4.37
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.50	5.75
Japanese Yen	1.87	2.00	2.00	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.51	5.57	6.00	6.38

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 7/28/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6940	0.6960
Sterling Pound	1.0663	1.0716
Deutsche Mark	0.4393	0.4415
Swiss Franc	0.5205	0.5251
French Franc	0.1286	0.1292
Japanese Yen	0.0066	0.0067
Dutch Guilder	0.3916	0.3956
Swedish Krona	0.0438	0.0440
Italian Lira	0.0000	0.0000
Belgian Franc	0.0000	0.0000

Other Currencies Date: 7/28/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.3250	1.3420
Lebanese Lira	0.040235	0.041875
Saudi Riyal	0.1847	0.1861
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3100	2.3500
Qatari Riyal	0.1893	0.1917
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7840	1.7990
UAE Dirham	0.1884	0.1893
Greek Drachma	0.2625	0.3025
Cypriot Pound	1.3770	1.4960

UAE signs major offset deal with Chase Bank

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has signed a major deal with the U.S. Chase Manhattan Bank for offset investment which could culminate in a \$1 billion venture, UAE officials have said.

Under the deal, Chase Bank will assist foreign companies seeking to invest in the UAE as part of their offset commitment.

Officials said this would help attract more capital from industrial countries.

Previously, foreign firms were obliged to develop their own offset investments and many of them had reported difficulties arising from lack of information about the local market, officials told AFP.

"Under the new deal, contractors with the approval of the UAE Offset Group would have a mechanism through which Chase would

be retained to screen proposals for, and direct investments in, offset projects... to create commercially viable enterprises in the UAE," the UAE Offset Group said in a statement.

It said the agreement would provide an opportunity to international companies to "satisfy part of their offset obligation under the UAE offset programme by means of a joint financial commitment alongside others."

Chase, one of the biggest banks in the United States which is involved in offset programmes in several countries, will cooperate with the consultancy firm, Finasa Emirates, according to its manager Robert Kaltracian.

The Abu Dhabi-based firm has acted as an adviser to the official UAE Offset Group since it was introduced a few years ago, Mr. Kaltracian

European Investment Partners now available to Jordanians

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The way has been cleared for Jordanian entrepreneurs seeking joint ventures with European partners by the conclusion of negotiations between the Kingdom's largest commercial bank and the European Community's Investment Partners (ECIP) programme.

The monthly newsletter of the delegation of the European Communities in Jordan also said the European Investment Bank (EIB) was providing a dual-loan package to help support small and medium-size industries in Jordan.

The credit includes a 10 million European Currency Unit (ECU), around JD 8.42 million, with an interest subsidy to provide medium-term financing in industry and tourism and a two million ECU (JD 1.684 million) loan for risk capital.

Both credits are available to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), and are being funded from the European Community budget.

The newsletter noted that the IDB has received nine loans from the EIB since 1979, including two from risk capital sources, worth a total of 41.3 million ECUs, or nearly JD 35 million.

On the ECIP programme, it quoted a senior Arab Bank official as saying that the role of the bank was to act as a mediator, channelling funds from the ECIP to suitable projects in Jordan.

Mifteh Akel, manager of the Arab Bank's Merchant Banking Department, was quoted as voicing confidence that the programme was coming to Jordan at the right time, noting that Jordanian companies were increasingly interested in expanding their investment activities, particularly in areas involving new technology, either through joint ventures or licensing agreements.

Mr. Mifteh was quoted as saying that the Arab Bank was keen to see the programme in operation in Jordan because it provides a potentially valuable tool for promoting local industry and creating new jobs.

The ECIP programme offers four types of facilities...

— Identification of potential joint venture projects and partners.

— Operations prior to launching a joint venture.

— Financing of capital requirements.

Human resource development including training and management assistance.

The first facility is available only for chambers of commerce, professional associations, public agencies and ECIP financial institutions, while facilities two, three and four are available to private companies, the newsletter said.

In the Mediterranean region institutions in Tunisia, Morocco, Lebanon, Cyprus, Turkey and Israel are already participating in ECIP, it said. Projects approved in the region include a workshop between industrialists from France, the Maghreb and Egypt to discuss cooperation in water management and agro-industry; a study for the establishment of a medical supply factory in Morocco; an equity loan for a joint venture in medical equipment manufacture in Morocco; and support for training of personnel in factories in Tunisia.

The European Commission has published a user's guide to ECIP which is available from the delegation of the commission in Amman.

U.S. earns \$14.8b from arms sales

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The United States increased its share of arms sales to the Third World last year to 76 per cent for a total of \$14.8 billion, the Congressional Research Service said in its annual report.

Overall arms sales to the Third World, however, continued to decline in 1993, dropping 22 per cent to \$20.4 billion, from \$26.2 billion in 1992.

The end of the cold war and a curtailed demand for weapons in many countries have prompted the decline since arms sales to developing nations peaked at \$61.5 billion in 1988, said the re-

port.

As the leading arms supplier to the Third World, the United States saw its sales increase slightly last year from \$14.6 billion in 1992, but its share jumped from 56 to 76 per cent, researchers said.

The sale of 72 F-15 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, for \$9.5 billion, and of 256 M1-A2 battle tanks to Kuwait, for \$2.2 billion, accounted for 80 per cent of U.S. arms sales to the Third World.

The Middle East remains the largest arms market in the Third World representing 56 per cent of all deals from 1990 to 1993, the report said.

Russia, the third-largest supplier of weapons to the Third World behind the U.S. and Britain, increased its weapons sales last year to \$1.8 billion, from \$1.6 billion in 1992, the researchers said.

Before the Soviet Union broke apart in late 1991, its third-world weapons sales peaked at \$27 billion in 1987.

European airlines see profits in passenger growth

BRUSSELS (AFP) — European airlines, which have latched on to near bankruptcy during the recession, are recovering towards profits on a nine per cent increase in passenger traffic in line with world trends, trade figures showed Tuesday.

The Secretary general of the Association of European Airlines (AEA) Karl-Heinz Neumeister, said that the figures, together with cost-cutting programmes introduced by airlines, seemed to point to a "period of prosperity, at last."

AEA figures showed that the number of passengers carried by European airlines had increased by 9.8 per cent in June from the figure in June 1993, taking the increase in the first half of the year to 9.1 per cent, trade figures showed Tuesday.

In June passenger traffic had risen in all regions of the world except in North Africa where it had fallen by 3.9 per cent.

Traffic in South America had risen by 13.4 per cent and in the Far East by 12.7 per cent.

The number of passengers carried across the North Atlantic Ocean had risen by 8.6 per cent and traffic within Europe by 9.5 per cent.

The percentage of seats occupied per flight on average had risen to the highest for a month of June to 71.6 per cent and in the first half of the year it was 66 per cent.

Freight business had grown by 17 per cent in June and by 13.1 per cent during the first six months of the year.

The AEA groups 24 European airlines, among which are British Airways, Air France, Lufthansa, KLM, Alitalia, SAS and Swissair.

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Handwritten signature: *د. محمد...*

IOC supports Goodwill Games

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — The Goodwill Games, spawned in the cold war as a response to successive Olympic boycotts, have now received the stamp of approval from the Olympic movement.

The games were conceived by Atlanta cable television mogul Ted Turner in 1985 to give American athletes the chance to compete against their Soviet counterparts.

The first games were staged in Moscow in 1986, the second four years later in Seattle and the third have reached the halfway stage in St. Petersburg, city of the czars.

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch was conspicuous presence at last Saturday's opening ceremony and Monday Turner said the IOC chief now fully supported the concept of the four-year multi-sports games.

"The Olympic games were smarting," Turner told a news conference as he recalled his harsh promise to set up his own multi-sports event. "There was a lack of communication between the Olympic officials and myself."

Now, Turner said, the IOC and the Goodwill Games organisers were dealing with the same sporting federations and he was consulting regularly with Samaranch.

"It makes sense for us to do that," Turner said. "And I wish we had done that from the very beginning."

"Somebody asked (Samaranch): 'You were against the Goodwill Games in 1980, now you're for it' and he said 'that's right'."

Turner said the original intent of the games had been to stop the Olympic boycott.

"If you recall there were two Olympic boycotts," Turner said. "And then the Olympics went to South Korea (the 1988 Seoul Olympics). Russians didn't have diplomatic relations with South Korea."

"The Olympic committee voted to take a very, very controversial place considering the Olympic boycott."

"I'm willing to bet that without the Goodwill Games the Soviet and eastern bloc teams would not have gone to South Korea."

Italy's goalkeeper Pagliuca joins Inter

MILAN (R) — Italian World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca has joined Internazionale from Sampdoria in an exchange deal which sees former national team players Walter Zenga and Riccardo Ferri moving in the opposite direction.

Inter confirmed the deal had been finalised at a press conference Monday. Pagliuca, 27, has signed a four-year contract with the Milan Club.

The goalkeeper had a mixed World Cup, serving a two-match suspension for a sending-off, but returning and performing well as Italy reached the final.

He will replace the popular Zenga, his predecessor as Italy's number one, between the posts for Inter. Ferri, a defender, won 45 caps for Italy but has been troubled by injury in recent seasons.



Gianluca Pagliuca

Volkov survives scare at Los Angeles Open

LOS ANGELES (R) — Fourth seed Alexander Volkov of Russia survived a scare in the first round of the \$13,750 Los Angeles Open Monday.

Volkov saved two match points before beating American Bryan Shelton 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 in two hours and 37 minutes to safely reach the second round of the hard court event.

Fifth-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek used his booming serve to successfully begin his title defence with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over American Michael Joyce.

Krajicek took control by dominating the tie-break 7-1 and never let Joyce back into the match.

Eighth seed Karsten Braasch of Germany rolled past South African qualifier David Nainkin 6-3, 6-0 complete an upset-free opening day.

Top seed Michael Chang, second seed Boris Becker and third seed Andre Agassi, fresh from his title at the Canadian Open Sunday, were scheduled to play their opening-round matches Tuesday.

Volkov, ranked 27th in the world, quickly fell behind the

93rd-ranked Shelton 2-5 in the first tie-break after both players held their serves throughout the set. Shelton kept on the attack and closed out the tie-break 7-5.

The second set was a near carbon copy of the first as neither Shelton nor Volkov could produce a service break. Volkov did turn away one break point, which was also a match point, in the 12th game with a forehand winner.

Shelton reached his second match point at 6-5 in the second set tie-break. But the American double-faulted and Volkov took advantage of the misfire as the fourth seed went on to win 9-7.

The hard-serving Shelton pounded 15 aces, but he also hit 10 double faults and Volkov maintained the momentum from his tie-break win in the deciding set.

Volkov said the first match point was saved by skill, but he admitted that luck played a role in his ability to turn back the second one.

"We were both playing so hard and the score was also so close that I knew I could win the first match point," Volkov said.

Dream Team II makes reality harsh for foes

TORONTO (AFP) — Dream Team II has inflicted a harsh reality on the other 15 teams arriving here for the World Basketball Championships — they are all playing for second place.

The 12 National Basketball Association (NBA) stars representing the United States are likely to repeat the gold medal success of the original Dream Team from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

Even a second-place showing is a lofty goal for all but Croatia in the 16-team world finals that begin Thursday and conclude August 14.

"We should beat anybody we play handily, so we just have to prepare to beat anybody who comes along," U.S. coach Don Nelson said. "I think Croatia will be the best opponent, but I'm not 100 per cent sure. You can be surprised in the international game." Rivals agree that no one will surprise Dream Team II, which assembled only two weeks before their opening game Thursday against Spain.

"Taking the gold seems

impossible," so we should be satisfied with silver," Croatia coach Giuseppe Giorgia said.

Dream Team II includes Shaquille O'Neal and Alonzo Mourning at centre, forwards Dominique Wilkins, Shawn Kemp, Larry Johnson and Dominique Wilkins plus guards Reggie Miller, Joe Dumars, Kevin Johnson, Mark Price, Dan Majerle and Steve Smith.

"They are a bunch of young guys who haven't won anything yet," Nelson said. "Until we have that gold medal around our necks, we have to win by as much as we can. We're not taking anything for granted. We're working hard to be ready."

Barcelona silver medalist Croatia is a solid favourite to finish second again behind NBA players Toni Kukoc of Chicago and Dino Radja of Boston plus centre Stojan Vrankovic.

"The USA will win the gold. We will take the silver and Canada will win the bronze," Kukoc said. "We have to realize it will be hard to achieve that and play with

intensity."

Host Canada has a strong position in the battle for third, led by Boston's Rick Fox and NBA draft pick William Njoku. Several other teams will not have their complete lineups here.

Australia will play without Chicago centre Luc Longley, who is at home with his bride of 12 months Kelly awaiting the birth of their first child. Another Olympic veteran, Andrew Gaze, will spark the Oceania champions along with forward Andrew Vlahov.

Brazil will play without former mainstay Oscar Schmidt and Marcel Sousa, who retired. Germany goes without Seattle's Detlef Schrempf, who declined to play, and Philadelphia centre Christian Welp, who underwent shoulder surgery.

Puerto Rico boasts a team with eight years of playing together, including centre Ramon Rivas and forward Jose Ortiz. An experienced Russian squad also figures to challenge.

Legacy of 1984 Olympics survives — in streets, pools, gyms

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A decade ago, the Olympics provided Los Angeles a shining moment, a charmed time for a city that in later years was battered by rioting, earthquakes and fires.

While those glorious weeks of light freeway traffic, a drop in crime, and smiling strangers saying "hello" on the streets are a distant memory, the legacy of the 1984 games lives on in Los Angeles.

In the unlikely setting of an inner city beach volleyball court, Rose Villacarlos dives into the sand bawled in from the seaside, slaps the ball skyward, and yells in delight as a teammate spikes it over the net.

Across town in east Los Angeles, father Carmine Villacarlos watches approvingly as youngsters whoop and slip down the slide and into the pool.

Near downtown Los Angeles, Richard Allen looks around the old building being transformed into a state-of-the-art gymnasium and explains how he envisions it as a haven where children and their parents who live in a "war zone" of gangs and crime can come to work out or to watch amateur boxing matches.

Over by the coliseum, Robert Arellanes talks about the kids in sports programme that will give urban youths and their parents the binding, growing tradition in sports that suburban kids enjoy. At Dorsey High School in south central Los Angeles, Monika Schloder demonstrates to a group of minority coaches the latest methods of teaching youngsters how to swim.

The 15-year-old Villacarlos, the youngsters at the Salesian Boys and Girls Club, the children and parents who will use Allen's gym, and the others are beneficiaries from the 1984 Olympics.

Those games, which began on July 28, were the first free-enterprise Olympics and left a gift for amateur sports in America and for youth in southern California in particular.

The \$225 million profit from the LA Olympics was divided among the U.S. Olympic Committee and various national sports federations.

ations, which received 60 per cent, and the Amateur Athletic Foundation (AAF) in Los Angeles, which received \$90.6 million, the other 40 per cent.

The AAF uses interest earned on its share of the money to grant funds to establish youth programmes, initiate its own programmes, and for a wide variety of other programmes to benefit amateur and youth sports. As of March, the foundation had spent \$27.3 million, including 625 grants totalling \$27.5 million.

"To me, it's amazing," Vairo said. "I was in Canada before I came here, and they're still paying off their debts from the Olympics in Montreal."

The Los Angeles games, which breathed new life into the Olympic movement, were the first without heavy government involvement. Much of the profit came from sponsorships sold to corporations, and the LA Olympic Committee also was able to save money by using existing facilities for most sports and housing.

Atlanta, host of the 1996 Olympics, will have to build more facilities for its games, and it plans to donate those facilities as its main bequest. "We learned a lot just from meeting with people from Los Angeles," said Bob Brennan, spokesman for the Atlanta organising committee. "We continue to pick the brains of those people there who can help us."

"I think the uniqueness of the '84 games had to do with the fact that we worked cooperatively with government," said Anita DeFranz, who was in charge of the Olympic athletes' housing at the University of Southern California 10 years ago and now is the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) executive board.

"We paid for extra services from government, such as security, but ours was a contractual relationship with government."

The bottom line was a huge profit.

The AAF, in addition to the programme for youths, maintains a sports memorial collection that includes American football cleats worn by Jim Thorpe, Jack Dempsey's boxing gloves, and a track shoe worn by Jesse Owens, the foundation also maintains the most extensive sports library in the world, and conducts surveys, seminars and conference on a variety of topical sports issues.

"Our mission is to serve youth through sports," DeFranz said. "We do that by enhancing the understanding that the community has of sports..."

"We had a conference here on the (money) crisis in high school sports. We've had national conference on issues such as steroid abuse, gender stereotyping, the electronic media."

The AAF is housed in a renovated mansion near downtown. Also on the grounds are the library and a pavilion for conference. The centre serves as a think tank for amateur sports.

"We like to work with new ideas," DeFranz said. "For example, among the things we do well is our coaching programme. We've done some innovative things, including using the interactive high jump video disk, which the state high school champ this year used to better his performance."

The most obvious beneficiaries, however, are the kids' programmes, with funds going to suburbs and cities alike in Los Angeles, San Diego and Ventura counties. "Without the AAF, there would be no boxing rings in here, no heavy bags, no speed bags," Allen said at the soon-to-be-open gym. "This is going to help change some lives. I tell the kids that when a kid yells at you, 'Hey, you wanta fight?' bring them in here."

Recalling the spirit of the 1984 Olympics, DeFranz noted that some of it seemed evident during the recent World Cup games, which were played at the Rose Bowl.

"LA had proven it's a wonderful big-even city," she said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amunike joins Sporting Lisbon

LISBON (AFP) — Nigerian World Cup striker Emmanuel Amunike is at the centre of a transfer tug-of-war between Sporting Lisbon and German club Duisburg. Amunike signed a three-year contract with the Portuguese club here late Monday, turning his back on a prior agreement to join the Bundesliga. "Amunike was under pressure when he signed the contract with Duisburg," said Sousa Cintra, president of Sporting Lisbon, announcing the new signing. He said the German club had made no contact with Amunike's previous club, African champions Zamalek of Cairo. "FIFA will have to rule on this problem," he added. Amunike, one of the inspirations of the Nigerian side which almost beat Italy in the second round of the World Cup in Boston, Massachusetts, was forced to sign for the German club, according to Cintra, invalidating the deal. "Amunike only signed because of pressure from Nigerian coach Clemens Westerhoff, who told the player that unless he signed he would not be picked to play during the World Cup," said Cintra. Westerhoff ended a five-year term as Nigerian coach at the end of the World Cup.

Plecknik returns to Denmark

COPENHAGEN (R) — Danish first division side AGF Kontraktbald said Moody they had signed central defender Torben Plecknik from Liverpool in a two-year contract. Plecknik, 31, joined Liverpool from FC Copenhagen after winning the European championship with Denmark in 1992, but saw little premier division action in his second season in England.

Van Almsick off to U.S.

BERLIN (AFP) — Franziska van Almsick, the 16-year-old German swimming star, is moving to Florida after the world championships in Rome next month. Almsick said she would enrol at high school in Coral Springs, because "I must improve my English." She will continue to compete, notably in the World Cup in Germany next February, her manager Werner Koester said.

Greek coach to quit

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Following Greece's disastrous first showing at this summer's World Cup soccer championship, coach Alketas "Alkis" Panagoulas said Monday he would end his association with the national team. Panagoulas sent a letter to the Greek Soccer Federation saying that he did not want to renew his contract that ends Aug. 31. The 60-year-old coach thanked the federation for having entrusted him with the national team. Panagoulas, a former coach of the U.S. national team, coached Greece since 1992, helping it win its first ticket to the World Cup's final rounds. But this victory was forgotten in a blizzard of goals that overwhelmed the team in the first round in the United States. Greece lost 4-0 to Argentina, 4-0 to Bulgaria, and 2-0 to Nigeria, leaving for home with the tournament's poorest showing. Panagoulas blamed his players, saying they were cowed by the competition, players blamed their coach, saying he made poor choices in his lineups and tactics. Newspapers demanded Panagoulas' sacking. He went to the United States as a student in 1961 and later became a dual citizen. He was hired in 1983 to coach team America which was part of the North American Soccer League and also served as the U.S. national coach. He led the U.S. soccer team at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, but the Americans failed to qualify for the 1986 World Cup and Panagoulas returned to Greece to coach a series of clubs before taking the helm of the Greek national squad.

Martinez edges up

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Spain's Conchita Martinez, winner at Stratton Mountain, edged closer to the second place in the women's world tennis ranking published Monday.

That number two spot is held by her compatriot Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario — Martinez's victim in the American tournament final on Sunday.

Following are top rankings	
1. Steffi Graf (Germany)	365.00
2. Arantxa Sanchez (Spain)	245.68
3. Conchita Martinez (Spain)	223.44
4. Martina Navratilova (USA)	172.83
5. Kimiko Date (Japan)	132.10
6. Lindsay Davenport (USA)	126.14
7. Mary Pierce (France)	125.57
8. Jana Novotna (Czech)	121.33
9. Natalia Zvereva (Belarus)	109.17
10. Gabriela Sabatini (Argentina)	106.79
11. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA)	97.44
12. Zina Garrison-Jackson (USA)	85.36
13. Amanda Coetzer (S. Africa)	82.07
14. Anke Huber (Germany)	81.03
15. Lori McNeil (USA)	78.72
16. Sabine Hack (Germany)	77.85
17. Magdalena Maleeva (Bulgaria)	73.46
18. Julie Halard (France)	68.97
19. Helena Sukova (Czech)	65.91
20. Sabine Appelmans (Belgium)	64.55

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary Issue No. 14/1994 Drawing of August 2, 1994

Winning Tickets	
Holder of ticket No. 58942 Wins JD 40,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 3,000 each with JD 300
Holder of ticket No. 75919 Wins JD 10,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 1,000 each with JD 100
Holder of ticket No. 01847 Wins JD 5,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 700 each with JD 70
Holder of ticket No. 66507 Wins JD 3,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each with JD 40
Holder of ticket No. 49933 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 250 each with JD 25
Holder of ticket No. 83016 Wins JD 2,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each with JD 20
Holder of ticket No. 20206 Wins JD 1,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 150 each with JD 15
Holder of ticket No. 29302 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 50 each with JD 5
Ticket numbers 88416 89673 84415 21341 88805 win JD 200 each	
Ticket numbers 17481 55382 05915 05524 33602 win JD 100 each	
TICKETS ENDING WITH	
5107 9128 3241 5995 Win JD 60 each	7999 1269 4279 Win JD 30 each
055 552 Win JD 15 each	194 977 539 711 Win JD 10 each
10 Win JD 6 each	3 (Three) Win JD 3 each
COVER PRIZES FOR THE LOTTERY SELLERS	
40 covers, attached to the stub of 10 ending in 357 382 376 369 Win JD 10	
Winners of the grand prizes in the special issue number 13/1994 of July 17, 1994	
Mohammed Husein 100% - Jordan Net Prize JD 20,000	Mustafa Al Khawarizmi 100% - Jordan Net Prize JD 20,000
Riad Marzouk 100% - Jordan Net Prize JD 20,000	Chirp Nour 100% - Jordan Net Prize JD 20,000
Maj Nour Zaid 100% - Jordan Net Prize JD 20,000	Sayed Abdul Samad 100% - Jordan Net Prize JD 20,000
Next Draw takes place on August 17, 1994	
First biggest prizes are issued from GUVS headquarters	

Tender Poison: New perfume in Jordan

Director General of Astra Agencies Establishment Tuesday introduced a new perfume from Christian Dior during a conference held for this purpose.

The new perfume "Tender Poison" is characterised by its high specifications, which made it unique in terms of its smell, shape of the bottled and its beautiful colour.

"Tender Poison" is extracted from fruit and lemon

and other plants including vanilla and sandal trees. All these specifications meet to add a fine touch and a nice smell.

"Tender Poison" perfume lasts throughout the day.

"Tender Poison" is the perfume of the season. The new perfume will, put for sale on pharmacy shelves and major perfume shops, in addition to Abu Shakra Stores in Jordan.

World champions coach quits

CHICAGO, Illinois (AFP) — U.S. women's soccer coach Anson Dorrance, who guided his team to the FIFA world title in 1991, has resigned and will be replaced by assistant Tony DiCicco.

Dorrance, 43, has guided the U.S. women to a 58-22 mark with five drawn since talking over the club in 1986. He has guided North Carolina to 12 U.S. college titles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Journalists protest Al Nahar closure

TUNIS (AP) — The International Federation of Journalists has protested Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat's closure of a newspaper, calling it an "intolerable violation of press." In a statement signed by Aiden White, the Brussels-based organisation's secretary-general, urged Mr. Arafat to reverse his decision to shut down Al-Nahar newspaper. Its closure Monday left Jerusalem with just one daily, the Al Quds. "Chairman Arafat and his colleagues have a duty to protect all shades of opinion in the Palestinian media, even those they may not like," the statement said.

Arafat's 'copters grounded in Egypt

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Two Palestinian helicopters are stranded in the Egyptian town of El Arish while Israel and the Palestinians wrangle over their licensing, a senior official said Tuesday. Abdul Aziz Haj Ahmad, transport minister in the new Palestinian authority, told AFP that Israel would not allow the choppers to be flown into the autonomous Gaza Strip unless they were registered first. "And they can't be registered with us until we bring them in. This is a typical situation of which comes first?" he said. "The Israelis want them registered, but they haven't said where. And we can't register them under the Palestine National Authority while they are abroad." The helicopters, which are for official use by Yasser Arafat and his entourage, have been stranded in El Arish for more than a month.

Lawyer reports Lockerbie contacts with U.K.

DUBAI (R) — A lawyer for two Libyans suspected of involvement in the Lockerbie bombing has said contacts were under way with Britain to select a panel of judges, including one Muslim, who would try the men at the Hague. Ibrahim Legwell told the London-based Al Wasat magazine, received by Reuters on Tuesday, that the contacts were taking place through third parties, whom he did not identify. "The current talks with Britain through third parties aim at selecting the names and number of judges... of whom one could be a Muslim and the rest from neutral countries," the Libyan lawyer was quoted as saying.

Dirani gives Arad information — Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli interrogators have obtained information about missing airman Ron Arad from a kidnapped Lebanese guerrilla leader, military officials said on Tuesday. "New details have emerged about the fate of Ron Arad during the investigation of Mustapha Dirani," said General Herzl Bodinger, Israeli air force commander. "These details, which cannot be divulged, are likely to help us in discussions and contacts currently taking place behind the scenes" to find Arad, Gen. Bodinger told Israeli radio. He said Arad, who has been missing since he was shot down over Lebanon in 1986, was "held by an Iranian group or a group supported by and acting under the orders of Iran."

Israel accepts denial of remark

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Tuesday it was satisfied with British Consul-General Dalton's denial of reports he had likened Israeli behaviour in occupied lands to the Nazis and Hamas to a World War II resistance group. "The consul denied he made the comparison," foreign ministry spokesman Rafi Gamzu said. "He said this is the self-image of the (Islamic Resistance Movement) Hamas and this is their image among Palestinians — but it is not his comparison." I would say for the instant this is closed," Israel's Yedioth Achronoth daily said on Tuesday. Israel sought clarification after hearing that Mr. Dalton, in a closed briefing to British Labour Party supporters, said Israel acted in occupied lands like the Nazis and Hamas was like a World War II resistance group. Mr. Gamzu would not say how the alleged comments came to the attention of the foreign ministry.

Kuwait begins pay-outs to invasion victims

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwaiti government began paying compensation to victims of the Iraqi occupation on Tuesday. An initial sum of \$1.39 million was paid to 303 Kuwaiti families, said Abdul Rahman Al-Hadi, chairman of the committee in charge of evaluating compensation payments. Mr. Hadi told reporters there that compensation would be paid to people who were injured or lost a close relative, child or spouse during the Iraqi occupation of August 1990 to February 1991. Pay-outs would be limited to \$10,000 per family, he said. In June, Kuwait asked the United Nations compensation commission for \$94.8 billion to compensate individual, private and public losses sustained during the occupation.

U.S. to sell missiles to Turkey

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Defence Department said Monday it planned to sell nearly 600 missiles to Turkey at an estimated cost of \$137 million. The sale includes 500 Sidewinder air-to-air missiles, 80 Amraam air-to-air missiles and 16 Harpoon ship-launched-guided missiles. The proposed sale would help improve the military capabilities of Turkey and contribute to U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives, the Pentagon said in a statement. Principal contractors for the missiles are Raytheon Co., Loral Corp., Hughes Aircraft and McDonnell-Douglas Corp.

Kuwait, Russia study investment pact

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Russia are negotiating an accord to encourage investment between the two countries, the official Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported on Monday. "The agreement will cover... the freedom of cash flow between the two countries and the freedom of currency exchange," Kuwait Investment Authority official Abdullah Al-Ramadhan was quoted as saying. Mr. Ramadhan, director of direct and real estate investment at KIA, the government's investment arm, said the agreement would provide for the protection of investments from non-trade risks such as civil disobedience. A Kuwaiti delegation would have talks on the accord with Russian officials in Moscow on Aug. 8, he added. The KIA is looking into the feasibility of some Russian projects, he added without elaborating.

West a base for Islamists — Ben Ali

PARIS (R) — The asylum policies of the United States, France and Britain are making them rear bases for Muslim fundamentalist guerrillas, Tunisian President Zine Ben Ali said. Mr. Ben Ali, who has outlawed Tunisia's "Al Nahda" fundamentalist movement, told the French daily Le Figaro it was now up to the West to fight Islamists. "Now, fundamentalism is your problem. I mean the problem of Paris, London, Washington," he said in the interview published on Tuesday. "France, Britain, the United States are being used as rear bases for fundamentalist terrorists... in the name of freedom and democracy, you are giving asylum to the enemies of freedom and democracy," he said. Mr. Ben Ali said he did not fear the spread to Tunisia of political violence that has been engulfing neighbouring Algeria. "I do not fear infection from Algeria because Tunisia is a healthy body," he said. He said he trusted Algeria's army-backed government would win its fight against fundamentalists. "The situation in Algeria is delicate, but it remains manageable," he said. "I am convinced the brotherly Algerian people will overcome the ordeal it is going through."



CAMBODIA OPENING UP: A Phnom Penh moneychanger counts his money near the Olympic market. Against a background of corruption, rebellion, banditry and political instability after decades of war, Cambodia is slowly trying to put its devastated

economy in order. Agriculture is one of the main sources of income for the Cambodians, but perpetual tension is depriving them of an atmosphere conducive to farming (AFP photo)

Algerian Islamists report split

PARIS (R) — Algeria's main Muslim opposition movement, the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), reported a split in its leadership on Tuesday and said two leaders had been ousted after advocating a merger with more radical guerrillas.

"A FIS statement faxed to Paris said two members of the movement's 12-man leadership in exile had left: Anouar Haddam, Washington-based leader of the FIS parliamentary group, and Ahmad Zaoui, an academic living in Belgium. Anouar Haddam and Ahmad Zaoui... preferred to work in another framework than the FIS. The FIS makes known that any statement from these two brothers does not represent its official position," the communiqué said. The FIS last week denied a statement by Mr. Haddam that the organisation's armed forces would merge with those of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA) and the Movement of the Islamic State (MEA).

The contradictory statements were the latest evidence so far of a struggle for control of the Islamic movement that is seeking to topple Algeria's army-backed government.

Algeria's official news agency said on Sunday that the leader of an armed GIA unit, Abdul Kader Hattab, his wife and nine followers were found buried in a mountain cave. Security sources were quoted as saying they had been killed by a rival group.

But an exiled FIS source disputed the report, saying his movement was absolutely determined to avoid Afghanistan-style feuding among Islamic groups.

At least 4,000 people — mainly security personnel and Islamic militants — have died in civil strife since the military intervened to cancel a general election in 1992 which the FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Haddam, who heads the FIS deputies elected in the first round of the unfinished vote, had said the merger was agreed at a meeting of "all the field commanders" of Islamic groups in Algeria on May 13.

The FIS said it was not represented at the May meeting and refused to dissolve itself into another organisation.

Foreign diplomats say the GIA, strongest in the Algiers area, is behind a campaign of highly-publicised assassinations of foreigners and intellectuals. Some believe it is penetrated and manipulated by the security services.

The FIS' own armed movement, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), is larger but operates mainly in the provinces against the security forces and government targets. Most of its attacks go unreported by the official media.

Diplomats say the Islamic movement is divided between those, notably in the GIA, who favour all-out war and those, mainly in the FIS leadership, ready to negotiate with the authorities to prevent the country sliding even further into bloodshed.

Iran blast suspect dies; Tehran sees Argentina, London links

TEHRAN (R) — A suspect in a bomb attack on a Muslim shrine in Iran died in hospital here Tuesday from bullet wounds in a shoot-out with security men, the official IRNA news agency reported. Mahdi Nahvi was arrested Monday in the shoot-out.

He had been sought by the authorities for the June 20 bomb attack on the mausoleum of Imam Reza in Mashhad, eastern Iran. At least 26 people were killed and 68 others wounded in the blast.

Iran blamed the main armed opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, for the attack.

In a brief interview with Iranian television from his hospital bed on Monday, Nahvi claimed to be a member of the Mujahadeen and said he carried out the attack at the orders of the rebel group.

The Mujahadeen has denied any links with Nahvi.

IRNA said the suspect died of at least two bullet wounds in the abdomen and the respiratory system. It did not say how many times he had been shot in Monday morning's shootout.

Iran's intelligence minister, Ali Fallahian, said in an interview with Tehran Radio Monday that Nahvi was the perpetrator of the bombing. Earlier Tuesday, Iran linked the Mashhad blast to last month's bomb attacks on Jewish and Israeli targets in Latin America and Britain, and laid blame for the bombings on Israel and the Mujahadeen.

Official Tehran Radio said in a commentary that the answer to the explosions would be found in the "axis" forged between Israel and the Mujahadeen. The Iranians refer to the outlawed group as the "monafeqin," which means hypocrites in Farsi.

Iran has been trying to deflect accusations made by Israel and the United States that the Iranian-financed Hizbollah group was behind attacks apparently targeted at Jews. (see page 2).

The view is gradually forming that the explosions in Argentina, London, and Panama were a series of coordinated and planned operations, one of the most important objectives of which was

to overshadow the crimes perpetrated by the monafeqin inside Iran," Tehran Radio said in a commentary.

The broadcast alleged that "the actual objective behind the attacks was to portray Iran, which is a victim of terrorism, as a terrorist element."

On Monday, Iran challenged the United States to produce evidence to back its accusation of Iranian involvement in the bombings saying it should otherwise issue an apology.

Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the judiciary, said that "Washington should provide documentation... otherwise, it should have the courage to apologise to the Iranian nation," IRNA reported.

Argentine President Carlos Menem said Monday investigators believe the Iranian embassy could have played a party in the July 18 blast.

Investigators were reported as saying the suicide bomber who drove a van packed with explosives up to Argentina's main Jewish community centre may have been an Iranian.

Iraq-Turkey pipeline may not be flushed soon

ANKARA (R) — A decision on flushing the Iraqi-Turkish oil pipeline idle since 1990 may not be reached by September, delaying the process until next year at the earliest, a Turkish oil official said on Tuesday.

"I doubt there will be a decision by September. Even if it is reached after that the pipeline cannot be flushed until next year due to the harsh winter in the region," Hayrettin Uzun, chairman of Turkey's pipeline company Botas, told Reuters.

Mr. Uzun said severe winter in Turkey's southeast and north Iraq will make inspection and repairs to the rusting 985-kilometre pipeline impossible until spring at the earliest.

He said the main problem was the distribution of humanitarian aid Iraq was to receive in return for most of the 27 million barrels of crude that will be flushed to Turkey if the process went ahead.

"The U.N. Security Council is literally saying that Iraq will not distribute this fairly, not giving it to Kurds and so forth," Mr. Uzun said.

"It (the Security Council) says it wants to distribute the goods or monitor the process," he said.

Mr. Uzun criticised the Security Council for not agreeing with Iraq's position which is against any form of international monitoring of food distribution in the country.

"Frankly I think it is impossible not to agree with the Iraqis — it is not suitable for the U.N. to be involved in the distribution of goods not barred by sanctions."

Iraq would be reimbursed for some of the oil by receiving humanitarian goods not barred under sanctions.

Nihal Abequa's sister arrives seeking custody of children

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nesime Dokur, sister of Nihal Abequa, 40, who was found killed in her New Jersey apartment on July 4, is in Jordan in a bid to regain the custody of her niece, Lisa, 6, and nephew Sami, 3, who were brought to Jordan by their father Mohammad Abequa.

Mr. Abequa has confessed to strangling his wife to death and fleeing to Jordan with the two children. He is in detention in Jordan.

Ms. Dokur told the Jordan Times on Tuesday that she had not met the children because she is still exhausted from the trip and because "everything happened too quickly."

Ms. Dokur, who was invited to Jordan by His Majesty King Hussein last Thursday, is accompanied with two attorneys, a U.S. senator's secretary and daughter.

Nancy Feinberg, Ms. Dokur's attorney, said U.S. senators and congressmen had held a meeting with the King on the Abequa case and the King later invited the Dokur family as his guests.

Ms. Feinberg said that the meeting with the King was successful, and that the conclusion was that Jordan would cooperate to speed up things.

The attorney said that she and her husband are representing Ms. Dokur and Maryam Gussal, the mother of the victim.

"It was made clear to us that we are not coming for a long visit, but to attend an informal and quick hearing, and that the children's custody will be determined under the Islamic law," she told the Jordan Times.

The attorney said that she was seeking a Jordanian lawyer to represent Ms. Dokur and Ms. Gussal in the case since the Jordanian law only allows Jordanian lawyers to defend cases.

to overshadow the crimes perpetrated by the monafeqin inside Iran," Tehran Radio said in a commentary.

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Rabin, Peres agree on 'truce'

The Jerusalem Post

PRIME MINISTER Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres held a reconciliation meeting Monday at which they set up a framework that would enable them to work together to promote the peace process.

No details of the two-hour meeting were revealed, but Labour sources said with satisfaction yesterday that the differences between the two had been ironed out.

It is now hoped in Labour that both its leaders will work together to solve internal problems as well, such as Labour's difficult financial situation and the divisions resulting from the Histadrut elections.

Rabin implied that there were no ideological differences between himself and Peres, and said that the personal disputes are not really relevant "to the heart of the peace process."

"I see the Washington Declaration as an achievement of significance," he said. "Peres and I are partners to the peace process since the government was established, with Peres serving as foreign minister and myself as prime minister."

"I don't want to go into whether there is or isn't a crisis. Let's remember that this has no connection to the issues at hand. Each of us acted in his field to bring about the Washington Declaration, and if there are problems here and there, they have no bearing on our joint desire to promote the peace process," Rabin said.

Attorney Giora Eini, who has served as adviser and confidante to both Peres and Rabin had arranged the meeting.

Eini met with Rabin and Peres separately to set up the meeting, and was in Rabin's office yesterday with the agenda they had prepared, when Peres arrived.

Rabin and Peres decided at the meeting that Rabin would continue to be in charge of the bilateral negotiations with Jordan, Syria and the PLO, while Peres would be responsible for the multi-lateral talks and the foreign ministers' forum.

Labour sources said, however, that Peres's desire to be more than merely a bystander in the political process may lead to more clashes between the two.

COLUMN

Heidi Fleiss, father deny money laundering charges

LOS ANGELES (R) — Alleged "Hollywood madam" Heidi Fleiss and her physician father Monday pleaded not guilty to federal charges of laundering money from her high-priced call-girl ring. They also pleaded innocent to charges of making false statements to obtain a bank loan and Heidi Fleiss denied a single count of tax evasion. U.S. Judge Consuelo Marshall, who presided over Monday's arraignment, set a trial date of Oct. 11. Ms. Fleiss, 28, and her father, Dr. Paul Fleiss, were indicted by a federal grand jury Thursday on six counts of money laundering, one count of conspiracy and two counts of making false statements to obtain a bank mortgage. Dr. Fleiss, 60, was also charged individually with making four more false statements to obtain a mortgage. Heidi Fleiss pleaded not guilty last year to charges that she ran a high-priced call girl ring catering to stars and entertainment moguls. Her trial in that case, in which she is charged with five counts of pandering and one of possessing cocaine, is set to begin on Aug. 22. Heidi Fleiss' lead attorney, Anthony Brookler, said outside court Monday he expects the state case to proceed first. Prior to their arraignment, father and daughter made a brief initial federal court appearance before a U.S. magistrate Monday. They were asked if they had seen the indictment and had been read their rights before being taken away for processing.

LOS ANGELES (R) — A girl whose high school entrance exam scores were too low to merit free tuition was so ashamed by the prospect of exorbitant fees she killed herself with pesticide, official newspapers said Tuesday. Chen Xinyan, 15, said in a handwritten note her family could not afford the 15,000 yuan (\$1,740) that friends told her was demanded of pupils falling short in their exams. "Please forgive me for my filial failure," she wrote to her parents, who earn only 800 yuan (\$93) a year, the China Business Times said from her east China hometown of Nanjing. "I can't suffer the dirty looks of others. I have no right to ask you to shoulder the cost of my tuition," she said. Chen was so distraught that she swallowed a fatal dose of pesticide on July 19, the China Youth Daily said. China's schools at all levels are scrambling to find new sources of income to make up for shrinking state subsidies. Primary and secondary schools are quickly embracing tuition increases, and many have adopted tuition schemes that penalise students with less-than-excellent marks. Popular vocational high schools charge as much as 9,900 yuan (\$1,150) a year in tuition, possibly in violation of state policies, the China Business Times said. Officials said Chen scored 554 points on an examination to enter Lianyung Port High School of Finance — just eight points below the cut-off point for free tuition.

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